

Public Libraries

MONTHLY

Vol. 25.

May, 1920.

No. 5

The Smith Family and the Department of Agriculture

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Of all the departments in Washington, the department of Agriculture is, I think, most intimately connected with our own daily life. It is ready and able to solve many of our everyday problems and whether we use it or not, depends upon us. And it particularly depends upon the librarians. We are the connecting link between the departments and the people who come to us for information which the Government is only too anxious to furnish if we will but give it an opportunity.

Mrs Smith's husband too frequently says that Mrs Smith can never make bread as his mother used to make it. But the Agriculture department can tell Mrs Smith how to make bread that will probably surpass her mother-in-law's, altho perhaps Mr Smith won't admit it. Mrs Smith says that Johnny is not gaining weight as fast as he ought and she wishes she knew exactly which was the right food for him. The Agriculture department knows, however, and it will not only tell Mrs Smith what food to give Johnny but it will also tell her how to prepare it. If Mr Smith's garden refuses to grow or a bug eats his cabbages, the Agriculture department will help him out. It is impossible, of course, for the department personally to attend to Mrs Smith's bread and Mr Smith's cabbages but it gives us the opportunity of doing so thru the publications, millions of

which are distributed every year. Of the *Farmers' Bulletins* alone, over fourteen million were distributed in 1919. That comes pretty near to being a "best seller," does it not?

These publications originate in the various bureaus and divisions into which the Agriculture department is divided. In each of these bureaus there are men and women, many of them experts, who are working and experimenting constantly along their particular lines. It may take months to complete a single experiment but the results will be worth it. These are the main reasons why our Government publications are valuable. They are the result of expert investigation. Most of them now—and this is exceptionally true of the Agriculture department—are written in popular form and well illustrated; and what is most important from the small library's point of view, they are free or supplied at cost. The Government really cannot do much more for us in the publishing line.

Did you ever stop to think why the milk which comes to your door every morning is now comparatively clean and free from infection? It isn't so very long ago that the milkman poured your milk from a doubtful can into whatever pitcher or bottle you had handy. But I don't believe you ever thought that it is the Animal Industry bureau of the Agriculture department which brings you clean milk. For many years this bureau has been carrying on investigations in

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dairys and dairying. It has practical dairys of its own where it experiments in the proper feeding of dairy cows, in the care of milk and cream, in the sterilizing of dairy utensils, and in all the many details which go to make our milk supply safe and sanitary. Thru its efforts our dairys are inspected and the milk produced under the proper tests.

According to official statement, the Animal Industry bureau was established to increase the number of animals in the United States, to conserve live stock, to control animal diseases, and to investigate dairy products. The results of all the investigations appear as the familiar *Farmers' Bulletins* or *Circulars*. If you want to know how to keep hens in the back yard, what to feed your hens when you get them, and what to do when they fall sick, ask the Animal Industry bureau. If you want to raise ducks or turkeys instead of hens, the bureau will assist you. Suppose there is a farm near you with a herd of cattle and tuberculosis develops. The Animal Industry bureau will tell you what to do and how to do it, either thru its publications or, if necessary, thru its field agents. It knows all about the proper breeding of cattle and how to improve the grade of stock. All this information you can get from the bulletins of the Animal Industry bureau and much more besides.

When I was a cataloger of government publications in the office of superintendent of documents at Washington, I met one evening a very interesting business man. He had been in the paper business all his life and the increasing scarcity of raw materials for paper making had aroused him first to alarm and then to action. He was at that time investigating different plant fibers and he had come to Washington to see if he could get in touch with any Government bureau who had experimented with paper plants of any kind. Much to his interest he found in the Agriculture department the Bureau of plant industry which has a special division devoted exclusively to fiber, paper and drug plants. Several bulletins had been published and the very next morning the paper gentleman ap-

peared at the documents office to demand these bulletins which were exactly what he wanted.

But that is only a very small part of the work of the Plant Industry bureau. This bureau does for plants what the Animal Industry bureau does for animals. It specializes in plant pathology; the diseases of fruits and fruit trees, of crops, of vegetables, and of flowers. Perhaps the fruit on Mr Smith's apple trees refused to mature, the leaves curled up and he couldn't figure out what was the matter with them. The Plant Industry bureau can probably tell him and suggest a remedy. It may have a bulletin on the very disease which is attacking Mr Smith's apples. Seed testing is also carried on in the laboratories and the bureau has charge of foreign seed and plant production. It conducts an experiment farm with some thirty or more greenhouses in the District of Columbia and its annual chrysanthemum show is worth going many miles to see. And as for information about all kinds of plants, what to plant and when, and how to take care of what you have planted, the bureau is an authority. "Sprig is kub," you know, and the vegetable gardeners are out in full force. Let us hope that this year they will advance to the attack with a hoe in one hand and a Plant Industry bulletin in the other.

Let us go back once more to the bug which is still eating Mr Smith's cabbages. If Mr Smith contemplates having any cabbages in the fall, he'd better consult the Agriculture department, or more properly speaking, the Entomology bureau. Coming up on the train from Washington one day, I met one of the Entomology bureau specialists who was traveling to investigate the affairs of a certain new insect which had been ravaging crops. I hope he was not a perfect type of the bureau's experts because he explained very condescendingly that he belonged to the Entomology bureau and then he added indulgently:

"But I don't suppose you know what 'entomology' means?"

"Yes," said I in a very low-brow manner. "It's bugs!"

That was a great shock to the expert and he did not recover until we had reached New York.

The Entomology bureau studies insects and their diseases, introduces beneficial insects, and experiments with insecticides and insecticide machinery. If it is a bug which is spoiling Mr Smith's apple trees the Entomology bureau will come to his rescue. Mrs Smith is not entirely ignored either, as the bureau publishes much information on house flies and house ants which is often useful. Experiments with the gypsy and brown tail moths in reference to their control were carried on by the bureau at the time when they threatened to ruin the forests of New England. The bureau also conducts all investigations in apiculture and its publications along these lines are used constantly by bee keepers.

It is not a very long step from tame animals to wild ones, so the relationship between the Biological survey and other bureaus is very close. When we know that the losses from house rats in the United States last year was two hundred million dollars, we begin to think that the Biological survey may be worth a small appropriation. This is still the Agriculture department, you know, so the survey was formed to increase the production and consumption of food thru the destroying of injurious animals, and by increasing the bird population, particularly those birds which are useful to the farmer. If Johnny wants to build a bird house and he probably will, the Biological survey will show him just what kind of a house to build for each bird and how to attract the birds to their new residence. It will examine various birds and from their food it will tell the farmer which birds injure his crops and which ones are useful to him. He'll probably be surprised at the result. The survey has charge of all bird and wild animal reservations and the regulations for their protection. Each year it issues a set of the game laws of the United States and Canada.

To my mind, some of the most interesting work of the Agriculture department is done by the Crop Estimates bu-

reau. This bureau collects statistics and makes estimates concerning agricultural products. It prepares the statistical portion of the *Yearbook* and compiles the figures on the world's production of crops. The Crop Estimates bureau is composed of the Washington force and field agents who travel over each state to inspect crops and get in touch with the farmers. A report is sent in each month for every state in the Union. There are also 10 crop specialists for the important crops such as cotton, rice, and tobacco. All totals for the speculative crops—corn, wheat, cotton, etc.—are kept secret until the date set by the secretary of agriculture for their release. Even the statisticians do not know to which state the figures which they are compiling belong. On a certain day, all statistics are turned over to the Crop Reporting board which is locked into a private room, the doors guarded, and all telephones disconnected. Each member of the board prepares his estimate of the month's crops from the data at hand, the totals are compared, and the figure set. The information thus passed upon is published in the *Monthly Crop Reporter* which gives figures and prices by states for the extent and growth of crops and live stock in the United States.

The value of the *Monthly Crop Reporter* is obvious. It prevents speculators from issuing false statements which may serve to unbalance the market; it acts as a clearing house for the farmers by informing them as to local and national prices. It is of special value to manufacturing firms, particularly those which distribute agricultural implements and hardware as it shows in what portions of the country money is plentiful and prices good. It also aids the railroads in moving the crops. Last of all the Crop Estimates bureau is a great stabilizer of the country's business. During the war this fact was forcibly brought out. It was vitally important that we should know how much food stuffs this country could produce, how much we might have available to feed our allies and ourselves. "Food will win the war," said everyone, and it

was the experts of the Crop Estimates bureau whose figures told us that we might if we would produce food enough to win the war.

As our farms and our farmers are the backbone of our nation, the Farm Management bureau in the Agriculture department was organized to assist the farmer in his work. This bureau carries on extended practices in farm economics and the applying of business principles to farms. Gone are the days when the farmer "guessed" whether his last year's crops had made money for him or not. The bureau also studies types of farming suited to various sections of the country. An abandoned New England farm does not require the same treatment as a farm section in Imperial Valley. But the Farm Management bureau studies the needs of both impartially. It endeavors to control farm labor, it studies farm equipment, milking machines and tractors, and it makes financial analyses of the amount of capital required to start a farm and how much return may be expected. Besides bulletins on all these subjects the Bureau publishes the *Geography of the World's Agriculture* which some libraries think is one of the teacher's best tools. This publication includes maps and charts of food production, crops, and animals all over the world. It gives in graphic form the geographic origin of the world's supply of food and agricultural products with climatic, soils, and economic conditions. When this geography was published the director of a certain well-known domestic science school saw it and immediately ordered five copies for the use of her students, saying that it was the best thing of its kind she had ever seen.

The farmer may be the backbone of the nation but a backbone is of no use by itself; it must have something to tie to. So the farmer's crops are of no use until they are tied to a market. Here the Bureau of markets steps in and carries on the work the Farm Management bureau has begun. This bureau studies market conditions, the demand and supply for crops, packing and shipping for

markets, the preservation of fruits and vegetables in transit and storage. If Mrs Smith wants to send her strawberries by parcel post to the nearest city the Bureau of markets will tell her what sort of containers to use and how her berries should be packed. Probably Mrs Smith and perhaps some of the rest of us do not know that the self-service stores we read so much about and the community markets in the city square are a result of the Bureau of market activities. *The Market Reporter* published weekly by the bureau, includes popular articles on marketing and current prices for the week on live stock, hides and skins, fruits and vegetables, etc., and notes on foreign markets. Until further notice it is issued to libraries without charge.

Everybody who has been to Washington admits that the District of Columbia is one of the finest places in the country for automobiling, just as they swear—and I use that word advisedly—that Virginia is the worst state in the Union for the same thing. Beautiful streets of glass-like smoothness tempt you to ride on and on and perhaps thru historic Georgetown, and then the fragrance of Virginia honeysuckle may lure you across the Georgetown bridge into Virginia. If you ever get back you are lucky. There is nothing in the world so persistent as Virginia mud. And this is in spite of the fact that the Bureau of public roads in the Agriculture department has done all in its power to establish good roads. It will send its engineers to instruct the local officials in road building, to investigate proper road materials, and problems of construction and maintenance. But Virginia still prefers mud to macadam. On the road to Chevy Chase where the President drives to play golf, the Public Roads bureau has made a series of road tests covering every few hundred feet. A distance of a few miles or so is divided into equal sections and each section of road is made of different materials. Thus they test the comparative strength of road building materials and what each will stand in the way of traffic. The bureau also studies traffic regulations but during the war they seem

to have forgotten that traffic rules like charity begin at home. *Public Roads* is the name of a well-illustrated periodical devoted to material on roads and traffic which the Public Roads bureau issues each month. The question of automobile trucks and the damage they do to our public roads is a problem which the bureau is now trying to solve.

Up to this point the Agriculture department has been rather inclined to favor Mr Smith rather than Mrs Smith. But with the States Relations service, Mrs Smith takes her proper place as head of the house. In the documents of office, the most popular set of publications we had was *Uncle Sam's Cook Book*. Whenever any of our friends were married, Uncle Sam's cook book promptly followed them to their new home with the hope that it might prevent some of those domestic tragedies of early married life. The cook book was made up principally of publications from the office of Home economics which is a part of the States Relation service. It included pamphlets on various kinds of foods with recipes and directions for using. This office has experimental kitchens where it carries on a study of food, dietetics, clothing, and household equipment. One of my friends was an expert in this bureau and she spent several months in experimenting with the removal of various kinds of stains from clothing. The results were published as a very useful *Farmers' Bulletin*. If Johnny falls into the inkwell when he has on his best suit of clothes, Mrs Smith can attend to Johnny by herself and to his clothes with the aid of the office of Home Economics. Experiments in the value of different foods are often undertaken by the office. Some unsuspecting college boys are caught and obliged to live for several weeks on a certain diet planned for them. They are weighed daily and the effects on their weight and general health noted. From these observations tables on food values are compiled with talks on the proper balancing of meals and diet. From records obtained from homes, boarding houses, college clubs and dormitories dietary surveys are made.

The office is at present working with the respiration calorimeter to find out the amount of energy which is expended in carrying on different household tasks, such as sewing, ironing, and cleaning. The States Relations service is in very close touch with each state as its name implies, thru agricultural experiment stations, agricultural colleges and county agents. It has stations in Alaska, Porto Rico, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands. It has charge of club work; home gardening clubs, canning clubs, poultry and pig clubs, and a bread club particularly for Mrs Smith. During the war, the service cooperated with the United States food administration and the Treasury department in their thrift campaigns and sent their demonstrators all over the country. An unexpected result of this work has been along the lines of Americanization. Often the first knowledge the foreign women had about our country and its life was given them by the Government demonstrators who taught them what to eat and wear and how to live like Americans.

From a publishing point of view these are the most important activities carried on in the Agriculture department. There are many others, of course: the Forest service which controls our national forests and issues publications on forest fires, lumbering operations, and reforestry; the Chemistry bureau which Dr Wiley made famous and which protects our food and drugs from adulteration and conducts investigations in tanning and tanning products and paper production. When war was declared and the need for great concentration camps was imperative the War department turned to the Soils bureau and said "Lend us your maps." So the bureau handed over for use their soil survey maps which they had prepared for nearly every county in the United States. If Mr Smith thinks the soil in his garden isn't just right for raising vegetables, the Soils bureau will analyze it for him and tell him what it needs. The bureau also carries on investigations in domestic fertilizer resources and has charge of the experiments in extracting potash from kelp.

The Weather bureau with its forecasts and warnings is familiar to everyone. Millions of dollars worth of fruit may be destroyed without the bureau's forecast of a cold snap, and storm warnings save many a ship that goes down to the sea.

So we see that there is scarcely an interest in your life or my life that the Agriculture department does not share. For the purpose of putting the information it possesses at our disposal, the *Division of Publications* has been established. This bureau has charge of the publishing and distributing of all publications which originate in the various departments. All *Farmers' Bulletins* and *Circulars* are issued from this office, together with the *Yearbook* of the Agriculture department, the most valuable single reference book on agriculture in the United States. The *Monthly List of Publications* which includes all publications for that month with brief notes and the *Weekly News Letter* with its notices of current work in the department keep the librarian up to date on what is new and interesting. There are also the more technical series such as the *Journal of Agricultural Research* and the *Experiment Stations Record*, which are not for popular use. The division also issues lists of its various

publications most useful to the library; lists of *Farmers' Bulletins* and lists of publications from the various bureaus. It sends out current information on agricultural matters to newspapers and it will provide you with some interesting posters. In short, if you want to know anything about the publications of the Agriculture department ask the Division of Publications. If the document is available it will be sent free; if it isn't, your Congressman may supply it or the superintendent of documents will sell it to you at cost. Even if your name is not Smith, you'll get it just the same.

Don't, I beg of you, be like a certain librarian of whom I know, who kept her collection of Government publications piled in any fashion on the top of her book cases. A visitor saw them and inquired:

"Do you have much use for those Government documents?"

"Oh yes," was the answer. "Somebody asks for them nearly every day. It's such a nuisance, too. I have to hunt thru all those piles to find what I want."

"I should think," delicately suggested the visitor, "that you would catalog the ones you use the most."

"Catalog them!" exclaimed the librarian. "Oh no! Why they're pamphlets!"

All in the Day's Work

It has been the custom of the Public library of Pomona, California, for several years to entertain the new city council and the city press immediately after their election. Last year one of the staff wrote a little play, presenting in dramatic form the daily work of the library, to make clear to the guests the varied activities of the library and the range of people affected. The actors were members of the staff and well-known citizens. They took the parts of patrons each playing in his own character, as far as possible. The stage was a mimic library in the center of the rooms and the audience had a chance to see the actual setting out of

the library service. The play was most heartily received. See P. L. 24:298.

There was no attempt to do more dramatically than to show the library's activity,—"All in the day's work." At the close, a pleasant social hour followed when the official families became better acquainted.

The sequel was that at the next meeting of the council when the library was considered, an increase in the appropriation beyond what was asked was granted and the salaries were increased \$20 apiece. Other libraries might profit by using something of the plan of Pomona, which is set out in the following:

[One act skit presented by the Pomona public library staff for the entertainment of the Library Board of Trustees and the City Council
.....1919.]

Written by Harriet H. Windrem; staged by Katherine King.

Stage setting: Improvised library desk with slip-tray, dater, statistics sheet, clippings, stereoscopes, books, etc., in front of telephone. Bookcase on observer's right—also screen to cover exit on right.

ENTER: First assistant and apprentice.

FIRST ASSISTANT. Now I'll show you about the day's work. Please get the mail from the mail box outside and put it on Miss Windrem's desk.

(Apprentice goes out, quickly returning with a great armful of mail, of all sorts. She goes back for more and passes behind the screen with it all)

APPRENTICE (Reappearing) Do you get that much every day?

FIRST ASSISTANT. Just about. We take 134 periodicals and 10 newspapers, besides almost half as many more which are given to us. Miss Windrem will fix that. You might add up the count for yesterday's use, while I call up Mr. Brown.

(Business of circulation count, while First Assistant calls Mr. Brown and tells him that the book about bee-keeping is waiting for him—bought at his request and held for him.)

(Some children come in and return books.)

FIRST CHILD. Have you Mark Tidd in the backwoods?

FIRST ASSISTANT. It is over in the K's. Do you know where that is?

FIRST CHILD. Yes. (Goes behind screen.)

SECOND CHILD. Have you any book that tells how to take care of rabbits?

FIRST ASSISTANT. I'll get you something. (Goes behind screen and returns with two or three books.—Business of charging.—Child goes out.)

THIRD CHILD. Where are the easy books?

FIRST ASSISTANT. I'll show you. (Takes child to bookcase. Child sits on floor or low chair and looks at books.)

FIRST CHILD. (Returning with book) Please get a book for my mother, too.

FIRST ASSISTANT. What kind of a book does she want?

FIRST CHILD. A good lady's book.

FIRST ASSISTANT. (Goes behind screen and returns with books) Has she read these?

FIRST CHILD. I don't know.

FIRST ASSISTANT. Would you like to call her up and ask her about them?

FIRST CHILD. She isn't home. Just any of them. (Has books charged and exits.)

APPRENTICE. Have I done this right?

FIRST ASSISTANT. (Looks at sheet) Yes. 376. That was not so bad for a day's work, and there are the branches too.

APPRENTICE. Oh, do you give out as many books as that?

FIRST ASSISTANT. A book every two minutes 12 hours a day all year long is what it averages. And all those books have to be got out and put away and mended, besides just what we do here at the desk. . . . By the way, Mr. Long is coming this morning for those books for Central school. Will you please charge them and put the checks in the school file for Miss Gantz to count?

APPRENTICE. Do all the schools get books here at the library?

FIRST ASSISTANT. Yes, the teachers come and select their books for supplementary reading and keep them as long as they need them—then we renew them automatically at the end of the month.

(Apprentice begins charging books.)

(Phone rings.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. Public Library. Yes. . . . Oh, you wish to know if the Executive Board of the P. T. A. may have the use of the assembly room this afternoon?

Let me see . . . (consults typed list of regular reservations by phone). This is the third Saturday of the month, the regular time for the meeting of the Pomona Valley Goat Assn. But the room will be free this evening. Could you use it then? . . . Very well. At 7:30 this evening . . . and you would like about 25 chairs? Yes. Everything will be ready for you. You're welcome. Good-bye.

ENTER: Mr. Long (Lightning delivery) with load of magazines which he puts on floor by desk.

MR. LONG. Well, here are some more magazines for you. Mrs. Smith sent them down for the sailors.

FIRST ASSISTANT. That's fine. We are going to send about a dozen sacks down to San Pedro the first of next week. . . . There are the books for Central school, Mr. Long.

MR. LONG. All right. Is that all for this trip?

FIRST ASSISTANT. Yes, I think so.

(Apprentice helps Mr. Long get books together.)

(Phone rings.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. Public Library. . . . The Hospital? . . . Oh, yes. Well, Mr. Long is here right now . . . (aside) Just a moment, Mr. Long. . . . Yes, we will send them up this afternoon. You're welcome. . . . (to Mr. Long) Why, the hospital has some library books to be exchanged. If

you'll come back early this afternoon we will have about thirty ready for you to take up.

EXIT: *Mr. Long.*

(During above, *Apprentice* may be sorting magazines among which *L. H. J., etc.,* are obvious and taking them back of screen.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. (Musingly) Perhaps I'll have time to select those hospital books while I'm here at the desk . . . if it isn't too busy.

APPRENTICE. (Eagerly) I'll do it for you, Miss . . . , if you want me to.

FIRST ASSISTANT. Oh, I wish you would. Get nice cheerful ones like, . . . and . . . you know. And be sure to type a list to send along with them.

(*Apprentice* goes to bookcase and fusses around picking out books . . . might read out some amusing titles during any pauses.)

(Phone rings.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. Public Library. Yes, this is 72. No, this is the library. The Diamond Bar Ranch is Suburban 72.

(Laughing) That's a new one. Someone called the other day and asked if this was the Health Office.

(Phone rings again.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. Public Library. I beg your pardon? . . . Will you please hold the line just a moment while I look to be sure? (Excitedly) Dear me! Someone wants to know what colored ribbons to use for a boy baby and what for a girl. I never can remember! But thank goodness it's cataloged here somewhere . . . (Paws thru catalog drawer) Oh, here it is: "Infants: Colors for boy and girl" (Returns to phone) Hello, Pink is used for boys and blue for girls . . . Yes . . . That's right. You're welcome.

THIRD CHILD. (Who has been looking at easy books) Could I have some pictures to look at thru a glass?

FIRST ASSISTANT. Oh, yes. Some stereoscopes. Here are some nice ones. Do you want to take them home with you?

ENTER: *Young man from bank—goes to bookcase while little girl is being waited on.*

Mr. Stone said you phoned about some books on accounting for the bank.

FIRST ASSISTANT. Yes, we did. We have some splendid new ones. I'll get them for you. (Has books charged and hurries out.)

ENTER: SECOND ASSISTANT. I wonder where Mr. Rimmer is. A big box of books has just come from Parker's and if he would open it for us we could check up the bill and get them accessioned and ready for Miss Harris to catalog when she comes this afternoon.

(During above two ladies, one elderly and one club woman, enter with books to return. First Assistant speaks pleasantly and is busy discharging their books as she turns and replies to Second Assistant:)

FIRST ASSISTANT. You'll probably find him around washing windows. It's a wonder they are not worn thru with such constant attention.

(Second Assistant looks in drawer of desk, finds bill for books and exits right.)

Elderly lady goes to the bookcase, changes her glasses, and begins searching.

Apprentice is still engaged in hunting books for hospital, but helps elderly lady find books.

There might be a typewriter back of screen for Second Assistant to be using occasionally for "atmosphere."

CLUB WOMAN (at desk) Is there any material in the library on the history of the old mill at San Gabriel?

FIRST ASSISTANT. That is one of the club topics isn't it?

CLUB WOMAN. Yes. I have to write a paper on that subject for the First Landmark's Section of the Ebell.

FIRST ASSISTANT. Just a moment, please. (Goes to phone, calls reference department and asks if that material has been looked up)

Yes, that subject has already been looked up. If you will go down to the reference room, Miss McIlvried will get it out for you.

EXIT: *Club Woman.*

ELDERLY LADY. (Brings load of books to desk) Will you please keep these for me while I go down town. They are so heavy to carry. (Leaves books and exits.)

ENTER: Colored children (preferably Virginia and Helen Marks.)

VIRGINIA. My sister sent you this note (Thrusting scrap of paper on desk.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. (Takes note and reads) "Please send me A pair of blue eyes and a book of poems by Paul Lawrence Dunbar." (Puzzled) "A pair of blue eyes"? . . . Oh, she wants the book by Thomas Hardy, doesn't she? (Gets books, charges them and exit children.)

FIRST ASSISTANT to Apprentice. If you have time now you might phone some of these reserves for Mrs. Penley. She's busy writing up reviews of some of the new books for the newspapers to print. Here's:

Modern carpentry, citrus fruits by Coit, history of American art, newspaper editing, and a lot of new fiction.

ENTER: FLUFFY-RUFFLE GIRL. Why, I'm going to give a shower for one of my friends who is going to be married. Do you know where I could find some good new ideas?

FIRST ASSISTANT. We have some clippings here about all kinds of entertainments. Perhaps you can find what you want by looking over them.

ENTER: *Young Man in army uniform:* I'm a stranger here. I'm staying for a short time in San Dimas, but I want to know if I can get a card to use here?

FIRST ASSISTANT. Why, yes. We issue subscription cards to out of town patrons. It is \$0.25 for one month, \$0.50 for 3 months, \$0.75 for 6 months, or a dollar a year.

YOUNG SOLDIER. I think I'll just take one for a month and I want something on farm tractors.

(First Assistant shows him several, gives him A. L. A. list for returned soldiers, etc. while he is looking at books Fluffy-Ruffles returns clippings [work in a little library flirtation] and exits. Soldier looks up, sees her go, has books charged and follows.)
(Phone rings.)

FIRST ASSISTANT. Public Library. Yes. How to pronounce what? Oh, Y-p-r-e-s, the town in France? Just a moment, please. (Looks in dictionary of mispronounced words.) Yes, here it is *fi prû*. You're welcome. Good-bye.

ENTER: Young Mexican. The sign outside says, "Todos estan bienvenidos"—"all are welcome"—so I came in to see if you have any books in the Spanish language.

(First Assistant shows him books, periodicals, and juveniles in Spanish and while he is looking at them a man comes in, supposedly from reference room with topographic sheet . . . brings in some conversation about topographics, soil maps, road maps, etc., and exit man.)

EXIT: Mexican.

ENTER: Young Lady (Striking type). I wish to inquire about securing a position in the Library. . . . I understand it is very easy work.

FIRST and SECOND ASSISTANTS and APPRENTICE (in unison) EASY WORK!!!!!! I think we had better take you to Miss Jacobus!

EXIT ALL.

Improper Inducements to Buy Books

Geo. H. Tripp, librarian, Public library, New Bedford, Mass.

There are those who buy books without external inducements. The passion to possess beautiful books with attractive bindings, rare editions, stately folios, Elzevirs, etc., has sometimes diverted money originally intended for such prosaic uses as rent, food, and clothing from the somewhat too evident sanity of reasonable outlay to the insidious desire of possession of a coveted volume.

Some will purchase books for the thought encased in cheap binding; others, for the sumptuous binding of inferior authors; some will buy to furnish empty shelves, to decorate a corner; others will listen to the wiles of the canvasser of "de luxe" editions. The luxurious satisfaction of owning a gentleman's library, or properly providing the children with the best books to supplement their school reading, seven-foot royal paths to a liberal education, half-hour readings which in an incredibly short time will render one a well-read man, all these with greater or less legitimate appeal to the innate longing for culture, the Chautauquan system of self-improvement, the uneasy striving for intellectual advance-

ment, the search for the philosopher's stone which will turn baser metal into auriferous sands, or cause a tract of intellectual aridity to break into fertile blossoming, call aloud to those who live in a land where everything in material wealth is open to opportunity. The American instinct of social emulation which rapidly teaches the *nouveau riche* to discriminate in the use of forks and spoons, offers incitement to critical choice in books and authors. The time is not far distant when Americans were learning to like olives, when "an organ in the parlor to give the house a tone" was appreciated by culture seekers, now, pianos and telephone in tenements, automobiles and mortgaged houses, fruits out of season, and "caviare to the general" are not unusual.

So the taste for books is becoming more sophisticated. The parents whose youthful literary appetites were satisfied with Elsie and her brood, have children who range from Leonard Merrick to Galsworthy and Turgeneff. These cravings for advancement are being fostered by more or less unscrupulous purveyors of books who push their sales by what we might call improper inducements to buy books.

The great majority of book advertisements in reputable mediums are proper enough, and for these we are grateful. But there are some which are not to be praised.

Among these questionable inducements for book purchases I shall mention only a few. Others will naturally suggest themselves to the readers of this journal.

A few years ago a dealer in sets of English classics which had outlived their copyrights made the offer to include with the volumes in question lots of land situated in New Jersey. This somewhat incongruous combination of books and bog appealed to me at the time as a striking illustration of an improper inducement to acquire literature.

Other book sellers who assure us semi-confidentially that if we respond by return mail we can obtain one of seventy-three copies left of a superlative edition, possibly slightly injured in the binding, remind one too much of fire sales of clothing.

Again, the ooze-calf bindings, and the sumptuous "de luxe" editions of more or less noted authors need only be named in passing as the somewhat stereotyped forms of such appeals, but when a history of the United States by a very prominent man of letters, who was afterwards to go far on the political road, was advertised by his publishers as representing "the genius of the greatest historical writer of the present time", and who further emphasized the value of the work by asserting that "the annals of historical literature record no more brilliant and masterful piece of writing than ----'s epoch making work", we feel that possibly Thucydides, Livy, Gibbon, Voltaire, Mommsen, Green, and Rhodes, to say nothing of Macauley and Buckle, were unfairly treated.

Again, when parents of school children, even those below the High School, are invited to purchase a certain encyclopedia as being the neces-

sary stepping-stone to advancement in elementary studies, we are apt to lose our confidence in the judgment and good sense of the publishers of such works when we realize that the encyclopedia in question is one made for adult minds, and the scientific articles in the work are absolutely beyond the comprehension of the average college graduate. Such a work of reference in the hands of a school boy would be as useful as a Sanscrit primer.

Then the so-called "Merry Tales" which are advertised as direct appeals to the prurient, and collections of historical tales to which the attention of prospective readers is beckoned by sensational illustrations appealing to depraved tastes; such advertising in reputable periodicals is certainly an improper inducement to buy books.

Likewise the great wave of efficiency systems of increasing salaries and improving memories by magic reminds me somewhat of an advertisement of a bank which for months has carried in its window a poster showing a determined young man who says, "I will not live in debt another day", with the greater or less implication that the way to get out of debt is to borrow money at that bank to satisfy his immediate creditors.

Another inducement which proves extremely seductive to the unenlightened, is the installment method of purchasing world histories, world classics, and the world's best books.

Still another attempt to boost the sale of books by mentioning the fact that self-respecting libraries will not buy them, is a plan which has been used with a certain degree of success.

These few instances of what I have called improper inducements to buy books are all that I propose to mention in this paper. The subject is one that could be amplified to a much greater length, but enough has been written to show that the production and distribution of books is not entirely a work of sanctity and grace.

In the Letter Box

Holding the Library Workers

March 31, 1920.

An Open Letter to Librarians:

We know that many libraries are losing trained assistants who are going into other kinds of work because of the larger salaries offered, altho they make the change with regret. Could not some of these be retained in library work by being put in touch with better paying positions in other libraries?

An advertisement in the library periodicals, or applications to those libraries known to have relatively high salary schedules, might often lead to satisfactory positions. By preventing further depletion in the total number of library workers this would indirectly help the library losing an assistant, and it might be rendering a distinct service to the assistant and also to the library to which the assistant went.

LINDA A. EASTMAN,
Cleveland public library.

Turn-about is Fair Play

Not long since I had to sit and listen to a group of librarians telling each other the funny incidents which had occurred in their several library experiences in serving the public. They seemed to vie with each other in pointing out the queerest remarks used in asking information. I felt guilty for my class but, now, let me speak:

I recently had occasion to call the Public library in a town of about 185,000 population and ask at what age little squirrels first open their eyes. Several hours later I telephoned for my answer. I was referred to the "reference department." Sweetly the reply came over the wires: "It varies from seven to ten days, depending on when the eggs are hatched."

I asked the assistant how she understood my question. She repeated it correctly.

Not all the jokes are on the public.
PUBLICA.

Another Side of the Struggle

The article in April PUBLIC LIBRARIES (p. 186-187) strikes some very true notes but there are some things to be said on the other side. It is also true that those who *need training* most can not get it. Many such are tied by family cares so they can not move on. Many of our working conditions are due to the librarian himself, or the architect, and can not or will not be changed for the benefit of the employees. Most of us have responsibilities which forbid recreations, etc. And there are a lot of trained people and head people who are paid much more than they earn!

TRULY YOURS.

New England Parts.

How Is Your Heart?

Dear Editor:

May I add a few words to what is printed on page 197 of April PUBLIC LIBRARIES on the subject of altitude? Few people living at or near sea level or up to even 1200 ft. realize what a strain on heart and lungs comes at an altitude of 5,000 ft. alone. That is higher than most of our Green, White and Appalachian Mountains and none of us live on those peaks.

And when you make it 8,000 or 10,000 ft., you are running into positive danger for many a weak heart and pair of lungs.

On our way to California in 1915, some of our party were glad to keep still and even lie down on crossing the Continental Divide in the Pullmans. This means absolutely no exercise whatever, just passively being carried over the road in most luxurious fashion. As to Pike's Peak, some of us of the original California party in 1891, remember how near we came to losing our too-efficient secretary on the summit, his sickness afterward and his fondness even now for the lowest possible altitude routes to and from the Pacific Coast.

I think I am entirely safe in warning all persons of 35 years or more who are not used to mountain climbing and know

the effects of altitude, against entertaining any hopes of such exercise at a plus elevation of 5,000 feet.

Go to your physician and learn your blood pressure and have your heart tested before starting from home.

Certainly those of us over 50 will be content with views from the hotel piazzas and from the motors in and around Colorado Springs and Denver. As to Rocky Mountain Park, it is even more serious and if some of us do any climbing, it will be on the back of a mountain mule or the deck of a mountain Ford—which means trails and roads—not summits—thus far and no farther. I do not wish to frighten anyone or deter anyone from going, or break up any party or injure the prospects of a goodly number at Colorado Springs or the Rocky Mountain Park. Our previous trips have been *thru and over* the Divide in 1891, 1905, 1911 and 1915. In 1895, we were in Denver for the entire session. I have not had the pleasure of being on any of the Canadian trips and do not know how high the party went, so I am saying nothing about *them*. But climbing on foot at an altitude to start on the height of Mount Washington is not a thing lightly to be undertaken by any but those used to it, capable of standing it and well equipped for it.

G. E. WIRE.

Worcester, Mass., April 10, 1920.

The Spirit of Our Work*

I want to say another thing. Both in PUBLIC LIBRARIES and the *Library Journal*, I see many articles and papers that are of utmost value in what I call the mechanics of the library profession. We all appreciate the suggestion and experience of fellow workers, and the news of their appointments and movements. But isn't there the need of more frequently setting forth—sometimes of emphasizing—that without which all method degenerates into the merely mechanical, the *spirit* of librarianship? As a profession we are underpaid, the same amount of effort,

*Extract from a letter of a university librarian.

training, intelligence if devoted to law, or dentistry, or a dozen other professions or businesses would give far greater financial returns. Some of us are librarians because we wouldn't want to be anything else: we love our work; we like to think we are contributing a little to the enlarging of human horizons, to making men, women and children wider, deeper, more intelligent, more sympathetic. To us, our work is not a job, but a service. Underlying it—as there should be in all worthy work—is a spirit, a passion. Never, it seems to me, was the need greater than now for the sounding,—for insistence upon—this note. Internal conditions on this continent were, economically and socially considered, never so critical, so perilous. Things are in a state of flux, of evolution—but to what? Who can say? Whether or not a new industrial, economic, social order will suddenly or slowly come out of the present deep and universal unrest, I know not, but if we are to come out of it with better human relations we must act with knowledge as well as with courage. Libraries and librarians, it seems to me, can do much to help in these pregnant, fateful days. And from time to time in our library conferences, and in the library press, this fact should be brought strongly home to all. "Without vision the people perish," says Holy Writ, and it is as true of a profession as of a nation.

"The Most Distressful Country"

Dear Editor:

On my monthly perusal of PUBLIC LIBRARIES—March issue just to hand—it was a source of much gratification to me, but with mixed feelings of sorrow, that the position of our libraries was referred to in your pages. We are indeed in a deplorable state due mainly, no doubt, to conditions brought about by the "Great War," but even at that the remedy exists if the powers that be would only see their way to grant the necessary relief. Our rate for the upkeep of six libraries and a staff of 36 is 1½d in the £ which also

includes the maintenance of an art gallery and staff. The rate brings us in some £6000 whilst our estimated expenditure would require some £12,000 to £15,000 per annum. We have been in a state of stagnation for the past five years during four of which not a single book has been purchased for our libraries. Our stock is decreasing daily with our "worn out" and "rebinding" departments proportionately increasing, our newspaper and periodical supply has been drastically curtailed, our older borrowers falling away for lack of supply, and our new borrowers endeavoring to exist on the relics of antiquity. In the matter of remuneration to the staff, "a junior assistant," as we know him, in the normal course, takes 13 years to reach 35s. a week (£91 per annum). Speaking for this library I have over 1,000 vols. worn out, and nearly another 1,000 requiring rebinding. This is typical of the other five libraries. I could supply you with statistics which, I am sure, would make Andrew Carnegie turn in his grave, if not come back to life to do something for us.

Is it any wonder we "are on the verge of bankruptcy"—I rather think we have gone over—yet nothing seemingly will induce those in power to level the road for us to give us new life—notwithstanding the modern hurrah for "Reconstruction." As a matter of fact the closing down of the libraries has been seriously suggested.

Oh! that the broad Atlantic could be pushed the other side of your continent to bring us nearer in touch with those who realize that "The Public library is an integral part of public education." Alas! it is not here.

PATRICK J. FANELLY,
Librarian.

Charleville Mall, Dublin, Ireland.

Book Lists

(With apologies to Mr. W. S. Gilbert)

As some day it may happen that information must be found,

I've got a little list,

I've got a little list,

Of books on every topic, both above and underground—

Not one of them's been missed,

Not one of them's been missed.

There's the book that tells you why it is that black lampblack is black;

The one that clearly tells you how it is that ducks, not horses, quack;

There's the celebrated treatise on the cause of housemaid's knee;

There's the brochure on the length of jump of the domesticated flea;

There's the pamphlet proving Adam wore no watch upon his wrist.

I've got it on the list,

I've got it on the list.

O, he's got a little list,

He's got a little list—

Not a single book's been missed,

Not one of them's been missed.

And so when readers come to me with questions so profound,

I take my little list,

I take my little list,

And with its help I quickly give advice both wise and sound—

The answer can't be missed,

The answer can't be missed—

I tell them how they're sure to find the elusive northern pole;

I dope them out salvation to regenerate their souls;

I advise them not to tarry when they're chased by lions bold;

And tell them if they're always warm, they never will be cold;

And bashful maids—I tell them just what to do when kissed—

The answer can't be missed,

The answer can't be missed.

O, he's got a little list,

He's got a little list—

And the answer can't be missed,

The answer can't be missed.

And so when trouble troubles you, and you don't know where to turn,

Just take this little list,

Just take this little list.

It's really very simple and you readily will learn

What you formerly have missed,

What you formerly have missed.

There's something here that on your woes will act just like a charm,

A talisman that from you quick will drive away all harm;

It will make you young and sleek and fat—
or if you would be thin,

It will make you just a bag of bones, uncovered by a skin.

For your happiness and welfare, I really must insist

That you take this little list,

And learn just what you've missed.

O, he's got a little list;

The answer can't be missed;

So take this little list,

And learn just what you've missed.

Monthly—Except August
and September.

Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

6 No. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Subscription - - - - -	\$2 a year	Current single number - - - -	25 cents
Five copies to one library - - -	\$8 a year	Foreign subscriptions - - -	\$2.25 a year

By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under.

In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

Contributions for current numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

The Library's Place Vacant

THERE are a number of national organizations thruout the country which have been and still are holding their annual meetings at which various problems touching public welfare are discussed from various angles. In no program of which several have come under notice has book service been mentioned. One is moved to ask why. The meeting in New Orleans on April 14 of those organizations interested in child welfare had on its program a dozen different topics touching the life and interests of children and yet nothing was visible relating to the effect of bad reading in the problems they were trying to solve. A library journal has no need to tell its readers of the importance of this

subject. In large cities its presence and the effects of it are all too patent. In smaller cities and towns, a certain kind of shame or might one say, a realization of higher and purer things keeps the presence of bad books and other reading matter less conspicuous in public places, but it passes from one to another in certain places and its evil effects are seen in those localities eventually.

The New Orleans program referred to stressed formal education—teaching to read mechanically, but no recognition was given to the necessity of direction of the enormous power for good or ill which such teaching entails.

Here was a place for library publicity.

Distorted Facts and Figures

IN a discussion of ways and means for attracting young women, suitably equipped for library service into the lines, it would be well to bear in mind that there are sources of misinformation with regard to library work, against which it would be well to warn all inquiries. Attention has been called

recently to a book, "The girl and the job," which has a chapter in it on library work. The chapter is a mixture of facts and incorrect statements. It is evidently made up both from reliable sources of information and the vaporings of uninformed, discontented library workers.

Here are a few of the choice statements it makes. After stating the requirements necessary for entering the library school, and here facts reign, the statement is made, "She must read magazines, newspapers and books of research and invention, even more particularly than fiction," all of which is so. Then follow statements such as these: "The probationer enters a library and works usually for three or four months without salary. At the end of that time if her work has been satisfactory, she may become a substitute or may be appointed as a librarian at \$35 or \$45 a month. After two years' work these librarians are entitled to take a promotion examination and if successful in passing it receive a salary of from \$50 to \$60 a month. Salaries of the heads of children's departments are \$700 to \$1,000 a year, while their assistants receive \$500 to

\$800. Head circulation librarians receive \$900 to \$1,500 annually. An ambitious girl may aim to work her way to a position in the Congressional library at Washington, where salaries range from \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year."

Some of the women's papers over the country are calling it humiliating, discouraging and several other things, and commenting on it accordingly.

Nobody seems to be interested enough to find out the truth of these statements. It is the old mistake that is common, not to women nor to men alone, but to all people, of taking one or two glaring instances and making a general statement based on them. So one returns to the note with which one began—in counseling with girls as to the desirability of library service as a vocation, be very sure to warn them against any such misinformation as the work referred to contains.

Memorial Libraries in Virginia

THE very delightful manner in which the subject of memorial libraries for the ex-service men of Virginia is being treated by the press of Richmond and other Virginia cities is calculated to warm the impulses of all who are interested in library service generally, but particularly for the continuation of the very effective interest shown by the service men in the use of printed material.

It has been stated that the new library building is the only memorial sought by the members of the American Legion and it is the one thing on which the people of Virginia appear to be a unit. The building is to cost about \$2,500,000 when completed. The

site for this is to be provided by the city of Richmond which will transfer it to the State of Virginia to commemorate the deeds of the men who went overseas from the state in the world war. The site is a commanding one with every approach full of beauty and light, making it an ideal location in closest proximity to the capitol square.

Richmond is to be congratulated on the situation and the fine spirit which prompts and envelops it. The example of Virginia commands the closest attention and commendation on the part of other states talking of service memorials. [See p. 276.]

Mary Frances Isom

In all the land, there was none like unto her—no, not one.—*Yakami.*

FINE in soul, strong in purpose, fair in judgment, kind in word and deed. With eyes lifted beyond the sordid things of life that do not matter, seeing the eternal verities that must prevail if this is to be God's world. With an unshaken belief in the things that have proved themselves, with a keen scorn of the unworthiness of

those who choose the lesser part, with a heart full of tenderness and loving care for those who have striven but have not succeeded. Unafraid

To bind up the hurting wounds—to put away
The screens wherewith men hide accusing
truth,

And speak grave words when these befit the
time.

She went thru life bravely, helpfully,
leaving the world better because she
lived.

Lists or Directions?

THE director of publications of one of the best school systems in the country, in a city which has also one of the best library systems, in a letter to the library gives a fine hint as to the kind of things which will interest not only teachers but other persons in books and their uses. In speaking of the official school paper, the director says:

I should like very much to see this paper advertise the great value and usefulness of the Public library to the teachers. I should be very willing to publish in every issue an article by yourself or by some other member of the library staff which would tell in an interesting manner something about the magazine articles and books that the teachers will find worthwhile.

Instead of giving a mere catalog of magazine articles and books, I believe the library story should be an interesting description—something that will make teachers want to get the magazines and books which are thus advertised to them.

What do you think of this? Would you be willing to let me have four or five hundred words every two weeks for this purpose?

The spirit of appreciation, the vision of mutual responsibility and desire for service shown in this letter (which, it

goes without saying, were matched and met by the library) show the foundations on which the success of these two institutions is builded. The material for which the school man asked is also significant.

Is there not some danger of overdoing the "list" idea? The selected list is what is wanted usually by the habitual user of books, but, if as has been said by Publicity Man "60 per cent of the people of our country are without the opportunities offered by books," then lists are not the things to offer this last. The story of the books is what they will want first. Publicity Man's statement is not received unquestioned by all interested but if school people express themselves as favoring information about books other than that contained in lists, it may be well to study the point as to whether lists are really worth all they cost in time and effort, not to mention money. Mr Carnegie's gift to A. L. A. carried with it a silent hint against so great duplication of them at least.

New Executive Officers

THE Executive Board in its appointment of Mr Carl H. Milam as executive secretary of the A. L. A. and of Miss S. C. N. Bogle as his assistant, offer an earnest of effective service in the executive headquarters, which ought to augur good results for that department in the new activity which the demands of the time will make upon it. Mr Milam with his past experience has knowledge, thru his successful work in a state library commission, of all the devious lines thru which the books and administration of books may serve their constituencies from the smallest up to the largest kinds of libraries, and in the Library War Service he dealt with the administration of small units thru the various degrees up to the largest endeavor in book distribution that the world has ever seen. Miss Bogle's experience has been largely with educational phases of book service, first as a college librarian and later as principal of the Training school at the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Such experience as these two bring

to the A. L. A. headquarters ought to be able to extend the usefulness of that office far beyond anything that it has done yet, provided, these persons are furnished sufficient assistants to carry out the plans and purposes which the need of the library field ought to center in such an office.

The mid-winter meeting at Chicago which gingerly voted to proceed with the enlarged program, voted very strongly at the same time that the work of this enlarged program should be carried out *as far as possible* from the Chicago headquarters. In the announcement of the appointment of Mr Milam to succeed Mr Utley it is stated that he is to take his position in Chicago *as soon as possible*.

Miss Bogle is scheduled to begin her work in Chicago the last week in April. At this writing it is not discoverable whether this will be *as soon as possible*, but whenever that time which is designated *as soon as possible* arrives, both Mr Milam and Miss Bogle may be assured of a cordial welcome on their return to the Middle-West.

A Commendable Report

THERE has come to hand a most attractive pamphlet which may be called a report only because it throws much light on what the library which it represents has done, is doing and expects to do and that without the regulation fashion of such things. It has no names of persons in the library connected with it. It is addressed to the resident of the place, which is Irvington, New Jersey, about "his property" in

such a straightforward informing way, that it cannot be overlooked by anyone who sees it. It is made up of eight pages on each of which is an arresting statement so that if only perused for a moment it accomplishes its mission—it gives definite information that any citizen would welcome. As a general proposition, it may be said that library reports as a rule are the least interesting bit of all the good work that libraries do. Irv-

ington, N. J., library gives a notable exception.

The front page of the brochure has on it the following:

IRVINGTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BELONGS TO YOU

Look inside and learn something about your property; what the library accomplished in 1919, and what it is doing now.

You pay for it—are you receiving the benefit? Your books are waiting for you to use them.

On the back page is the following:

TO BECOME A USER OF THE LIBRARY:

Walk right in.
Step up to the desk.
Ask for an application.
Write out your name and address.

NO charge? NO red tape?
NOT a cent. NOT an inch.

Irvington, N. J., deserves praise for this pamphlet.

*To Keep Faith with the Fallen II

If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep—

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Your letter suggests a field of thought, which, however familiar to yourself and your clientele, is almost untrod by laymen to your profession, even those who are the most frequent users of the libraries of the land.

How can our libraries best fulfill their mission? Necessarily, this query prompts the question, "What is their mission?" We might, in answer, reply, "To get the books to the people and to get the people to the books."

The departmental and circulation statistics of our libraries show that, as far as the first half of this answer is concerned, they are performing their part well. The conducting of libraries has been made the subject of scientific study and has enlisted an army of devoted men and women who have dedi-

cated themselves, their time and their talents to the service, making it their life work. They have deliberately prepared themselves for their profession, by study; and have been permitted to enter its ranks only after having passed a rigid examination which thoroly tested their fitness. The result is that our country is possessed of a system of libraries of which every American citizen can be proud.

They are, perhaps, the greatest assurance we have of the perpetuity of our republic—"perhaps the greatest" because even our public schools might, it is conceivable even tho distantly so, fall under the sway of the priests of the political and social Baal. Our libraries are not, however, even in times of passion, prejudice and unreason, subject to this false and insidious influence. The press and the demagogue can and do, the former sometimes, latter always, tempt the people astray from the right road, holding aloft, before them, the *ignis fatuus* of wrong doctrine and leading them into the engulfing swamp; but it is the high mission of our libraries to furnish the people with the light they seek, inspired only by the desire to be guided along the path to truth; and the people, if left to grope their own way, not led by false conductors, will eventually reach the road to safety.

This is truly a holy mission. Are our libraries fulfilling it? To the extent of getting the books to the people, yes; but they are not as successful in getting the people to the books.

The writer is a merchant. We have about one hundred and fifty employees. The other day, we queried them regarding their use of our public library. There were but two or three who ever went near it; the families of two or three others occasionally patronized it. The great, the very great majority, were about as familiar with it as they were with the Steppes of Russia.

This inspired the thought, if the library should include on its staff, one or two persons of appealing personality, practical sense and otherwise properly

*A series of letters in answer to the query sent out by Public Libraries as to what more can be done by public book service to help the American people to see right, to think straight and to go forward.

equipped for the work, whose sole duty it would be to visit the many industrial and commercial units of the city, according to arrangement made in advance, and talk to the employes of the different institutions, about the advantages of reading, inviting them to the use of their library (in advertising language, this is known as the appetite appeal), that many thousands of our citizens would thus be stimulated to a desire to learn and accordingly enter upon a course of study.

Supplementing this, the library staff should also include three to four expert advisers or reading engineers, as they might be termed; and it would be their duty to guide applicants to a course of reading in a subject to which they respectively felt themselves inclined. One would wish to make a study of some branch of science, a second of history and economics, a third of engineering in one of its departments, and so on. After some questioning concerning the attainment of each applicant, at the time, the reading engineer would, after having entered this information on a card, start him on his way. The applicant would no doubt wish to consult the engineer, from time to time, for further guidance; and this would be rendered easy by the card system.

All this perhaps sounds impractical. Financially it is not, for the library would be more than compensated for the extra expense to which it be put, in the greater and more nearly unanimous support that it would receive from the citizens. No doubt the plan has many crudities. Also, no doubt, if such a plan were adopted, it would require much time and experience to perfect it, in actual operation; but there is still less doubt, it would seem, that if some such an idea were executed, it would result in incalculable good to the people and to the commonwealth.

The libraries of the country are successful in getting the books to the people, but if they are fully to accomplish their object, they should be equally successful in getting the people to the books.

If the libraries of the country had, fifty years ago, realized this and had they acted accordingly, adopting some such plan as has been indicated, it is entirely within the range of possibilities, that Bolshevism would be as remote a danger now as it was in the days of Abraham Lincoln.

MARCO R. NEWMARK.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Books for the Children of France

At the close of the war, when the enthusiasm for book distribution among those with whom the horrors of war had reached a very engrossing point, the librarians of Chicago conceived the beautiful idea of collecting funds to buy a number of books for the children of France, to be distributed under the direction of the International Kindergarten Union. This organization, as is well known, did a marvelously fine work in gathering together the children of the devastated regions, particularly those who had been so terribly orphaned, and through the help of the Red Cross and other organizations made for them shelters here and there, where the best efforts were put forward to bring the helpless, innocent victims back to a normal state of life.

On hearing of the deplorable conditions surrounding the children of France, Miss Adah Whitcomb, of the Chicago public library, formed a connection with Miss Fanniebell Curtis, director of the International Kindergarten Union, and received Miss Curtis' consent to undertake a gift of books for the little French children. Sufficient funds were contributed by the library circles of Chicago to provide about 30 libraries of 25 volumes each. These were carefully selected French books for little children, and under the direction of the International Kindergarten Union, through the American Red Cross, they were prepared and distributed from the headquarters of the Jarden D'Enfants Unit, at 2 Place De Rivoli, Paris.

It is needless to say that these books were received with the greatest delight,

not only by those who were interested in these groups of little children, but by the little children themselves. The expressions of delight were very hearty and sincere, and those who made their contributions through desire to help the sad situation of the little French children, may well have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts were crowned with success.

A sample letter is given from Made-moiselle Lelièvre, director of Ecole Maternelle Bld., d'Alsace-Lorraine, Nan-vy. The letters from the children, many of which are well-nigh impossible of translation into American language, may well be imagined. Since child-mind is of one piece the world over, it is not hard to imagine what little children anywhere, deprived of all that goes to make up happiness of child-life, and particularly those of the temperament that enjoys beauty and color given them with expression of affection and regard, would say.

The letter referred to is as follows:

Dear Miss Orr:

I have received through the intermediary of Miss Wright and the Jardin d'Enfants Unit a superb collection of story and picture books for the little children of my school, which collection has been given by the librarians of Chicago for the little children of France.

These books are, both as regards text and form, of real artistic beauty and are a very happy choice.

It is quite a wonderful fête for our little ones to admire them and look through them.

This generous and charming gift reveals once more the touching delicacy of heart of our American friends. I am trying to make my little ones understand that they must always remember with gratitude the librarians of Chicago, who have taken the initiative as regards this delicate gift, and also all who have contributed towards it.

And as their gratitude should show itself in deed as well as word, my children think they should do something for the Americans, but they are very small and America is far away. However, there are several graves of your countrymen near here and the children think that they can and should bring me flowers for the soldiers who will be with us always. Sometimes we shall go and visit them and this will be the best way for my pupils to prove to the American Red Cross that they have not helped the ungrateful.

In their name and ours, I ask you, dear Miss Orr, to kindly act as intermediary and transmit our sincerest thanks and gratitude to the Chicago librarians and the Jardin l'Enfants Unit.

(signed) M. Lelièvre.

I saw the books before they were sent out, at the office of Miss Mary M. Orr in Paris, and they were indeed beautiful—good paper, good clear print, good binding, and most beautifully illustrated. They could not help bringing joy and pleasure to any group of normal children, even in well-to-do homes. A list of the books contained the following:

Les Plus Beaux Contes de tous les Pays
Filles et Garçons
Pour les Petits Enfants—Le Premier Livre
Pour les Petits Enfants—Le Second Livre
Découpons et Collons
Tur-Lu-Ri
La Belle Histoire de Prince Muguet
Nos Animaux
Rip van Winkle
Grand Père
Les Premières Lectures de Jeunes Filles
Les Deuxièmes Lectures de Jeunes Filles
Les Troisièmes Lectures de Jeunes Filles
Nouvelles Histoires et Leçons de Choses
La Vie Curieuse des Bêtes
Pour Lire Seul
Contes de Fées
Nouveaux Contes de Fées
Jeane d'Arc
Richelieu
Bonaparte
Peter Pan
Jolis Contes de Noël
François Premier
Mon Village
Louis XI

Each volume had a neat, very pretty, little plate in the front, bearing the message in French: "Books donated by Chicago librarians to the children of France through Jardin D'Enfants Unit." When one thinks of the terrible experiences, long drawn out over a period of nearly five years, through which the children of France were forced to go, such work as this appeals very strongly.

While undoubtedly in the midst of war times, hunger and physical suffering among the children were terrible, because of the accompanying terrible deprivation of any surroundings or experiences on which the child-mind might refresh itself; thousands upon thousands of human beings will go through the rest of their life, dwarfed in many ways, tho

they escaped the physical injury of shot and shell.

The saddest sight I saw in France was the group of little children at Miss Morgan's chateau headquarters—about 25 boys, ranging from 10 to 15 years, who had forgotten how to play. They had been gathered up, astray in the woods and on the borders of France by the Anne Morgan Units, when they returned to the Alsace-Lorraine region for the second time after the armistice, to renew their work of reconstruction.

Miss Morgan sent to the "Y" in Paris for an expert in child psychology, and this young man, a splendid fellow, was trying to teach these boys how to play ball. They were all under-sized and while they were not specially emaciated then, having been in Miss Morgan's care for three months or more, some of them were nervous to the last degree. Others were evidently nervously exhausted. The slightest flicker of interest while we were there, try as hard as he might, was all the director was able to elicit from some of the boys. Others made one think of little scared rabbits with their bright, darting eyes, as if expecting an attack from any quarter at any moment. Miss Morgan reported that only a few of them could read, but they all enjoyed looking at the pictures.

It must be that by this time most of the books sent over last year, have been used to the limit and suggestion is offered by Miss Whitcomb and others that a continuation of this very worthy effort would be a very commendable step in the right direction. There can be no doubt of the appreciation of it, not only by the children themselves, but by the many noble women who are spending their time and means in trying to reset the little minds and to fit them into the lives from which they were so ruthlessly torn.

The response to the former appeal was quite generous and very prompt and it is to be hoped that the good work that began so auspiciously and gave so much pleasure and assistance, will not be allowed to lapse.

M. E. A.

The Passing of Mary F. Isom

Mary Frances Isom, librarian of Portland, Oregon, since 1903, died at her home in that city, April 15. She was stricken with carcinoma while in A. L. A. service in France last year and returned to wage a losing fight with the dreadful disease.

She was the daughter of Dr John F. Isom, an army surgeon of Cleveland, Ohio. She was not robust in her early years and was educated largely in private classes. She graduated from Pratt Institute library school in 1901 and went directly to Portland, where she lived to the last. In 1902, she was made librarian and it was under her early administration that the Library Association was changed from a private subscription library to a public library. In accordance with this policy of library extension, in 1903 the library was made a county library serving the entire Multnomah county instead of merely the city of Portland. She had consistently held before her eyes that ideal of the library as a great democratic agency, a possession of the people to be administered always with their needs foremost in mind until today the Portland library is one of the outstanding libraries in the country in respect to its quality of service to its constituents.

Miss Isom was one of the organizers of the Pacific Northwest library association, being its second president (1910-11); an oft-time member of the Council of the American Library Association and the second vice-president in 1912-13. She was a member of the Oregon State library commission from its founding.

She had been a member of a number of important committees in the American library association from time to time and rendered valuable service in the councils of that organization. She was a member of the American Library Institute having been known as one of its founders.

To the younger members of the profession who came in contact with her. She was always a nice counsellor and

friend and no one was ever associated with her in library work that did not feel the fine spirit of service that permeated her library and directed her own contribution to it. Possessed of some private means, she was always generous toward the things that appealed to her judgment and many a weary and burdened heart was lightened by her helpful generosity of which one knew except those concerned.

During the late war, she gave volunteer service to the A. L. A. for duty in France and spent six months in organizing libraries in the American hospitals there. She was appointed by the A. L. A., director of war work in Oregon and the five southern counties of Washington, and the very successful book work in the spruce camps was organized by her.

In 1912, the present central library building at Tenth and Yamhill streets was planned under her direction and its admirable arrangement is largely due to her foresight and ability. This library is considered a model building by librarians the country over from the standpoint both of efficiency of operation and of simple architectural beauty.

The same understanding and vision have been largely responsible for the policy carried out within the walls—a policy which is likewise a model to other librarians. Its breadth of conception, its large and generous provisions for everyone, its freedom from petty restrictions, its belief in human nature, and its eagerness to anticipate the community's need which have marked every step of the library's developing service, were likewise the embodiment of the character of the splendid woman who directed the institution.

The Multnomah County library system was also a result of her vision, extending even into remote parts of the county, steadily growing in usefulness as a center for all sorts of activities connected with books or education in its broadest sense.

Miss Isom's standing in her profession at large was an enviable one.

From New York to Los Angeles, from Grand Rapids to Denver letters have come constantly asking her advice and judgment upon library matters. National library work has felt the influence of her ideals and has profited by her counsels.

Miss Isom was, however, never content to be narrowly professional no matter how efficient in that sphere. She was interested in her community and in its various activities not only theoretically but actively. The catholicity of her interests may be indicated by the fact of her membership in such various local clubs and organizations as the following:

Oregon Civic league; Consumers' league; Honorary member of the University club; Honorary members of the Association of collegiate alumnae; one of the founders and first president of the Professional Woman's league; Director of Social Workers association of Oregon; Director, Audubon society; Life member of Art Museum; Member of Drama league; Member of Evening Star Grange, Multnomah County; Member of British benevolent society of Oregon.

During her illness, Miss Isom was an inspiration to all who came in contact with her as an example of splendid courage and of unwillingness to yield an inch on uncontested ground from which she could possibly carry on her work.

She remained at the library from two to four hours every day up to March 30, and from that time until April 8 problems were taken to her home for discussion and advice. Not for one minute did her interest slacken in the work which for 18 years had been her chief concern.

Miss Isom leaves an adopted daughter, Miss Berenice Langton, two aunts, and a number of cousins.

A Serious Loss to Library Work in Maine

Charles A. Flagg, librarian of the Public library, Bangor, Maine, since 1913, died March 28 at his home in that

city. His illness was very brief and diagnosed as the sleeping sickness.

He was connected with the New York State library from 1896 to 1900 and was a specialist in American history in the Library of Congress from 1900-1913. He was a man of quiet demeanor, sincerely in earnest in his library service, and one whose efforts made possible a great improvement in library service in Bangor.

Resolutions by Maine library commission

The death of Charles Alcott Flagg, a member of the Maine library commission, is a serious loss to the library work of the state of Maine.

Mr Flagg was appointed a member of the Commission September 29, 1915, and remained a member since that date, being re-appointed in October, 1919.

Mr Flagg brought to the commission a technical knowledge of library work that has contributed more than any other thing to the advance of this science in Maine. His thorough mastery of every library problem made him an invaluable source of information and made it possible for the Commission to institute and carry out reforms that have placed library work in Maine among the most advanced in the country.

Mr Flagg devoted much time and a great deal of study to the work of the Commission. The result of his efforts may be seen in a complete change of methods and a greatly increased circulation of books. The library institutes have been placed upon a wise, educational basis. Perhaps the most distinctive service he rendered was in the field of library standardization. Before his death, he had the pleasure of seeing a standard adopted for all Maine libraries, and the technical work necessary to put it into force worked out and adopted by the Commission.

Mr Flagg's exact scholarship, his special training, his devotion to high educational standards, his keen mind and thorough grasp of business principles made him a wise, useful and influential citizen, a successful administrator of a great public trust and above all, a great librarian.

The Maine library commission in special session adopt the following resolution:

Resolved: That in the death of Charles Alcott Flagg, who for five years has served the state in library work, the Maine library commission has lost one of its most useful and devoted members.

Resolved: That the state of Maine has lost an efficient and public spirited official, whose place it will be almost impossible to fill.

Resolved: That the commissioners have lost a friend, who by his integrity, high ideals and genial personality, made himself an invaluable companion and business associate.

Resolved: That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of the commission, and the secretary be instructed to send a copy to his widow.

The Orotory Library

There was no library in the entire British Isles that I visited which proved more of a charming retreat than the Orotory library in London. This library is a private collection belonging to the Orotorian Brothers and is probably the finest library of Catholic literature in London. After roaming thru the chapel, I entered the yard of the Parish clergy-house and met Brother Vincent who has been librarian for more than a quarter of a century. The Orotorians as an order have never existed in America. For many years, their existence in England was threatened by persecution of various kinds, but that is now a thing of the past.

The French branch of the Orotorians was founded in Paris, 1611, by Cardinal de Berulle; the Italian branch had started earlier, in 1564, at Rome by Saint Phillip Neri; and in England, the order was founded by Doctor Newman, later Cardinal, in 1847.

The library, despite its ancient collection, bears many ear-marks of a modern type of library. The gallery, the wall and extra book-shelves house 35,000 volumes and several thousand

pamphlets on theological works, pat-
 rology, hagiography and ecclesiastical
 history.

Among the interesting features of
 the collection one ought to mention the
 late Father Frederick Faber's unusual
 collection of works relating to mystical
 theology; a representative collection of
 works on Palestine and Byzantine his-
 tory; and a good liturgical section.

English Catholic literature, contro-
 versial and devotional, occupies a
 prominent place in the Orotory library
 especially of the period from the last
 half of the sixteenth century to the
 eighteenth. Many of the volumes are
 of considerable rarity and Brother Vin-
 cent delights in inviting visitors into
 his comfortable study where he brings
 his treasures one by one for inspection.
 There are a number of fine folio edi-
 tions issued by the Benedictines, some
 of which are large paper copies.

In 1895, the library of the late David
 Lewis, at one time curate to Dr. New-
 man at St. Mary's, Oxford, became the
 property of the Orotorians. There are
 10,000 volumes and the collection is
 rather strong in works on canon law
 and French history. There are many
 curious controversial works of the sev-
 enteenth and eighteenth centuries.

St. Gregory's lending library is
 housed at the Orotory. This section
 was founded in 1862 by Father Faber
 and is a lending library of modern
 Catholic books to the number of 8,000.
 This includes Catholic works of doc-
 trine, philosophy, history and biogra-
 phy together with works of general
 literature by Catholic authors. The
 Orotory library is primarily for the
 use of the priests of the order and re-
 ligious students. St. Gregory's is avail-
 able to subscribers, annual or semi-an-
 nual, who are recommended by the
 Catholic clergy.

The spacious well-lighted library
 and the cozy study of the librarian to-
 gether with the wonderful wealth of
 books, form a delightful combination
 for any visiting librarian in London.

RALPH L. POWER,
 Boston University.

Newspaper Publicity.*

"Keeping everlastingly at it" with brief
 items pays far better than an occasional
 long-drawn-out write-up.

These extracts from our *Library Notes*
 which were kept before the public,
 first in the newspapers and then
 on our bulletin board, brought im-
 mediate and large returns in the
 use of the library.

March 17. A useful pamphlet on the
 laundry has just been received. This
 includes some valuable information on
 the removal of stains from fabrics.

March 19. There will be no excuse
 for garden failures this year in Man-
 kato. The Public library has scores
 of books that tell just how to go about
 it. Children who are planning gardens
 will find simple instructions in books
 written especially for them.

Housekeepers who are struggling
 with renovations and redecorations
 should not be discouraged. The Pub-
 lic library can furnish explicit instruc-
 tions.

March 21. In so far as is possible,
 women are becoming their own millin-
 ers and dressmakers. The library has
 books helpful to the novice—books
 like: (There follows a list of books.)

It is likely that a knowledge of home
 nursing will not come amiss in the days
 to come. There are possibilities for a
 complete course in nursing at the li-
 brary.

March 23. To the Business Men of
 Mankato: Your library is in business,
 too. Its business is to furnish you
 with what you want in the way of sug-
 gestions for your business, your recre-
 ations, your general interests. You are
 the main support of the library. With-
 out you it could not exist. "Turn about
 is fair play." The library wishes to

*These notes were elaborated last year
 when temporarily in charge of the Public
 library of Mankato, Minn. Only the bare
 outlines given of what may be developed by
 anyone interested.

serve you. Put it to the test. See what it can do for you. If it has not what you want, ask and it will do all within its power to produce the thing lacking. The following books on advertising may interest you: (List of books.)

April 9. Apropos of the suggestion of the Commercial club not to burden the Post Office department with useless questions, the Public library can help you out. Let your library answer your questions. A great many sources of information are on file for your express use. It won't take as long to get an answer from the Public library and it will cost you and the government less. Use the telephone.

"Hints on what to eat" is a valuable little pamphlet just added to the collection set apart for housewives.

April 10. For the better understanding of the musical treat in store by the visit of the Minneapolis symphony orchestra, the following books and magazine articles are recommended: (List of references to orchestral work.)

"Removal of stains from clothing and other textiles" is a useful little pamphlet ready for circulation. Attention is also called to "The care of summer fabrics; voiles, crepes, gingham and percales; cleansing, setting the colors, what to do when colors run, treatment of stains, etc."—a practical article in the *Housewives Magazine* for April.

To appreciate The Master Builder which is to be presented at the Mankato theatre soon, read the play first. The library has it.

April 18. "Patronize home industries" is a library slogan as well as a business man's. Before sending abroad for material on any subject inquire at your local library. Here is a case in point: a young man was given, on request, a book on dairy products. The date of publication seemed a little old so our patron sent to the Dean of his department at the State university for "the best book" on his subject only to receive the very book that was put into

his hands at the local library. This has happened again and again with club workers and others who seem not to realize that Mankato has one of the best reference departments in the middle west, thanks to a far-seeing library board. If the library has not in stock what its patrons want, it is ever glad to fill the need as promptly as the mails can carry. Use your home library.

April 22. Apropos of the little economies men, as well as women, are being called upon to practice, the automobile furnishes a good beginning. Be your own machinist. The library can help you. It has for your use the most up-to-date, most practical books on the care of the automobile. The library can also furnish you with ideas for those new signs you are contemplating painting and with designs for your show windows. The latest ideas on advertising and salesmanship are also at your command.

April 25. The telephone at the library makes it possible to respond with dispatch to reference requests. Telephone your wants if you find it difficult to get to the library. You'll be surprised sometimes to find how much can be done for you. This institution is not above so simple a task as looking up the pronunciation of words while you hold the line. Your dictionary does not begin to meet your needs. The library has other sources than a dictionary for filling everyday wants. For example, here are a few questions asked within the past few days which your library has been able to answer readily: (List of queries follows.)

For the pronunciation of the names of places, Lippincott's *Gazetteer of the World*, on file in the reading room, is an authority. The library staff is glad to respond to telephone requests for pronunciations, definitions, or any other reference need.

The library has announcements of examinations to fill positions in the classified civil service in which trained help is urgently needed. In these announcements, the branch of the service requir-

ing workers and the usual entrance salaries are given. Ask at the desk for these.

April 27. Material on "Americanization" is in great demand. It is a pity that this demand did not come fifty years ago and that such authors as Steiner and Ravage and Graham and Ross could not have put their ideas before us at that time. It would have enabled us to avoid many of the pitfalls of the present. We cannot hope to Americanize those whose inheritances, whose traditions, we do not understand. For intelligent service along Americanization lines, we must have the seeing eye and the understanding heart. Close contact with the alien in his work and his play brings these as nothing else can; but next to actual experience with those whom we would reach is the experience of others. The writers whose works are listed below know whereof they write. Let us do the wise and sensible thing: acquire a knowledge of our aliens in their native home environment, their hopes in their new country, before attempting to Americanize them. Many of the following books are delightfully entertaining besides being enlightening. The starred titles are recommended for first reading. (List of books follows.)

MAUD VAN BUREN.

Dr. Giddings of Columbia university, in a recent address before the Women's city club of Cleveland on "The weak spot in American civilization," claimed that this is the inability or the disinclination to think.

He said that he believed that the greatest aid to the development of the habit and the power of thinking, which is so sadly needed by the whole world today, is the reading of worth-while books, and he made this very grave charge: "the average American does not read three serious books a year."

The money that we possess is the instrument of liberty, that which we lack and strive to obtain is the instrument of slavery.—*Jean Jacques Rousseau.*

The Town Crier of S.

We were coming into the small town of S. on the Rhine, several miles below Coblenz in Germany. We had inspected the libraries in several stations on the Silesian area which is occupied by our boys who were to assist in the plebiscite in Silesia provided for by the terms of the treaty of Versailles. S. was our last station which we did not reach until darkness began to envelop it. As we entered we heard the ringing of a hand bell which had the tone of the bells which are frequently used on rural schools in Michigan to call the children from play to study. The ringer was hobbling up the street on a wooden leg. When we got nearer we discovered that one arm was missing and a part of his chin which had evidently been grazed by an American bullet. He stopped on the cross streets while a crowd of children, men and women gathered about, and from the windows in the building near by could be seen the anxious faces of women and children. Every one was at "attention" and the atmosphere seemed tense. American soldiers were patrolling the streets so we felt safe.

Evidently the old bell ringer—a German with gray hair but good physique—had some interesting news for his people or possibly some order from the government in Berlin. I thought he might have a call to arms to evict the invaders—the Americans—or possibly there was a revolution in Berlin and the citizens of this little town were to be called upon for men or money or other assistance. He might be a curfew ringer to send children to their beds; but no, the children were here. He might be the announcer of news, the news monger, the press agent, or he might be the mouth piece of the burgo-master or of the courts executing his orders or delivering their decrees. There surely was a tense expectant crowd gathered around the old bell ringer in the public square.

In order to satisfy our curiosity we passed into the crowd so we could hear distinctly—yes as distinctly as an Ameri-

can ear untrained to German language could hear. We heard "bucher," "ver-ein," "bibliothek," "Amerikanische" and the like. Then he finished and moved on to the next corner. The crowd dispersed. We sought the Y. M. C. A. where our books were located, and asked the Y girl what the street scene meant. (Yes, there are Y. M. C. A. girls in these buildings who with feminine delicacy, motherly ways and American doughnuts, made the Y's real homes for many a home-sick boy.) She told us that we had seen the town crier who at the moment we were listening to him was requesting the citizens who had soldiers billeted in their homes to gather together all the A. L. A. books found in their rooms and take them to the library in the Y. M. C. A. rooms. Boys neglected to return their books until the library had been reduced to two score of books from several hundred volumes.

In this way the American Library Association and its books are becoming known to the humble German peasants in these rural hamlets scattered for miles along the Rhine bridge head centered at Coblenz. The A. L. A. has 90 stations in this area outside of Coblenz, and 75 in Coblenz and its immediate vicinity. The great war work of the A. L. A. continues and is being heralded thruout the American occupied territory of Germany by her town criers.

A Brooklyn Protest

At a public meeting held by the Central library committee of 100 in Berkeley institute, Brooklyn, recently, an address to the Board of estimate and apportionment and the Board of aldermen of greater New York was prepared and forwarded to both boards. The object of the meeting was to protest against the slowness in the erection of the Brooklyn central library at Prospect Park, work on which was started more than 10 years ago and never completed. The resolution stated that Brooklyn had not been treated with justice in the indifference manifested toward its library needs.

"Brooklyn is entitled to have this building speedily completed. Many priceless volumes are being ruined or damaged and many more are constantly inaccessible because this structure is not finished. New York's magnificent library building was begun after Brooklyn and has been in full use for several years. It is time for Brooklyn to arouse and insist on its rights."

Many of the prominent citizens of the Borough of Brooklyn were included in the committee of 100. Charles F. Murphy, former senator, as chairman of the Central library committee gave a rousing talk, according to the accounts in the newspapers, and a decided spirit of resentment over conditions was manifested.

Buying Books in Germany

The A. L. A. committee on importations from Germany has issued a report on the situation, the main points of which are as follows:

The state of the German book trade is very unsettled and very unsatisfactory. The present low quotations of the mark makes business on the old basis impossible. Some dealers are resorting to the questionable practice of reporting books as "sold" and later offering them at largely increased prices. Others are frankly increasing their price from 100 to 500 per cent. In other cases the increase has been still greater. In some instances, prepayment is required for all books sold for export, in the currency of the country to which they are to be exported. The unstable value of the mark, at present less than 2 cents and varying from that up to 9 cents in Germany, is the basis of much of the trouble. The New York importing houses seem to be charging anywhere from 7 to 18 cents per mark.

Dr Van Hoesen reports from Leipzig that all sorts of devices are used to create an artificial exchange value for the mark, and that all book dealers have raised prices from 200 to 500 per

cent. Dealers in general show no great enthusiasm in helping American agents complete their want lists. Dr Van Hoesen's opinion on the field seems to confirm the opinion forced by experience on some buyers in this country, namely that under the circumstances many libraries will undoubtedly curtail their imports from Germany until sanity and probity control their trade.

A Successful Library Campaign

Last Monday, April 5, at the general city election, the special election for increasing the library levy from three-quarter mill to one and one-half mill carried by a large majority—three to one in favor of the library. We were so hampered by lack of staff together with the necessity of conducting the campaign, as we did not employ a special publicity manager, that we have lived the strenuous life.

We had a most interesting publicity campaign and received most wonderful help from all women's organizations, club women, churches and church societies, children, Boy Scouts, three sectarian colleges, public school teachers, movies and store advertisements. The publicity more than put the library on the map. Ten thousand pamphlets were distributed by three troops of Boy Scouts and the women of Helena did remarkable work. Their clubs included all organizations, religious and social in the city. Then the Commercial club and Rotary club with lodges, etc., took up the matter. We had been preparing since New Year's and on the first Sunday in February all the churches, irrespective of creed, asked their people to support the library measure.

On the eve of "Library Sunday" at the churches, an anonymous letter followed by two other letters appeared in the newspapers' open *Forum*—crank letters with misstatements. I was dismayed but they did good instead of harm as the people resented their unfair and untruthful statements. Considerable fun and "pep" thus was introduced in the campaign. I felt like the man Elbert Hub-

bard termed the optimist in "one who gathered in the lemons handed to him and therewith started a lemonade stand."

I send the fine editorial from the *Montana Record Herald* of Saturday, April 3 and the clipping "Stables in Fang" from the *Helena Independent*. They were both very helpful.

Vote the library tax

We respectfully recommend to the people of Helena that they vote the library tax levy at the election Monday. We do this because we believe that such action will result in substantial benefits to Helena and to all its inhabitants, because we are firmly convinced that the public library is an asset of an invaluable kind, because we are sure that it is a community institution than which no other is more beneficial to the whole public, and which faithfully serves all of the time all of the people of the city whether they are book lovers, book readers or never look at a printed page.

The public library is one of the intellectual, material, economic, spiritual and social levers by which the world, humanity, civilization, are being continually, unremittantly lifted above the level of the brutes of the field. All that is good and noble in mankind is recorded in a library. The finest souls, the wisest sages, the greatest men and women who have appeared on this sphere have lavishly poured their riches into libraries.

The Helena public library, though perhaps a humble unit in the vast congeries of such American institutions, has been an indispensable factor in the life of Helena for many years, but of late it has not been able to function with that fullness and fruitful effect that is accomplished by generous means. This is the opportunity to revive it, to give it new life, to provide it with funds that will enlarge and increase its power to do good.

Nobody should mistakenly think that a library merely gratifies those who use it. That is its smallest office. A library more or less educates everybody in the community, for its knowledge, its opinions, its inspirations are continually conveyed to the community, to society, by all people who touch it, by numberless contacts, by all the modifications it effects in its readers, and these modifications the readers in turn effect upon the city. The crassest materialist busy with money-getting and a total stranger to books, the most ignorant man slaving in the soil, are thus its beneficiaries; for without the library, neither would have the same world in which to function. So everybody should back the public library and vote the tax levy.—*Montana Record-Herald*.

The two daily papers both printed many articles and editorials for the library. We did not stop at the printed publicity but had talks in the schools, clubs, etc., and had heart to heart talks with as many as could be reached, and asked these people to talk and explain the necessity for more funds to ten other people. This money is not available until next January but the city will advance some money.

JOSEPHINE M. HALEY
Librarian.

County Library Service

Since the city commission of Jackson discussed the idea of extending its public library service to the county, there have been many inquiries as to just what this service would include, since in different states, county library service has not meant the same things. In its simplest form, it gives every resident of the county the same privilege of coming or sending to the library and of drawing books that is given to residents of the city. In Jackson it would mean any adult resident of the county could come to the library, borrow any reasonable number of books and keep them any length of time up to one month. Children would be allowed to borrow two books at a time.

The next form of the service includes the loaning of book collections, consisting of 100 or more books to the communities which are more distant from the central library and to those communities which are anxious to establish libraries of their own and will provide a suitable place for the housing of the books and some person to attend to the issuing of them. These collections are sent also to any existing library in the county to supply books which that library lacks. The whole idea of this kind of service is to encourage each community to establish a library of its own which can draw on the central library for books and for the instruction of its attendants.

A further service which is doing wonderful work in the more thinly set-

tled parts of counties, consists of an auto book truck fitted to carry from 500 to 1000 books and to accommodate from four to twelve people besides the librarian and chauffeur. This truck tours the county, appearing every so often among the isolated farms and bringing to these out of the way people a good selection of books and competent people to find the right books for the need of the person applying for advice. These traveling book trucks have proved strong forces for Americanization.

Whatever the extent of the service rendered by a central library to the county all authorities seem agreed: That in no case is a county to feel this is a service which is being thrust upon it against its will; that a greater economy in book buying is possible where one agency buys books and prepares them for circulation; that books so prepared can be freely exchanged throughout the county, making all the books available to all the people instead of limiting each village or town to the books in their particular library; that when the binding and mending are cared for by one agency the books last longer and lower binding rates are obtainable than when a dozen or more smaller agencies attend to this work; and that penal fines or other specially designated funds are being spent each year for books, yet in most counties no books are accumulating, largely due to the fact no one agency feels responsible for the care and preservation of these books.

There is no denying that, in time, the county could build up a library collection equal, if not superior to that now owned by the city, but it would take time. Meanwhile the county would have to wait for the service which the city is now prepared to render, and when the collection was established, a building would have to be provided for it. Both book collection and building would be a duplication of equipment. The law states just how much the county supervisors may levy

in taxes for library support and provides that the county's interests shall be safeguarded by its own representatives on the board controlling the money thus raised.—*County Extension in Michigan.*

Books on Agriculture

The following notice has been distributed thru the newspapers to the rural districts of Wisconsin:

The Wisconsin free library commission has arranged to loan for a period of three weeks, a collection of the best 10 books for the farm library. This list was made up by C. S. Hean for the last 12 years librarian at the college of agriculture. Requests for the loan of this library should be made to the Traveling library, Madison. The library commission pays the outgoing expense, the borrower, the return postage or express.

Here is a list of the best books for the Wisconsin farmer: Henry and Morrison's "Feeds and feeding;" Plumb's "Beginnings in animal husbandry;" Craig's "Common diseases of farm animals;" Ramsover's "Equipment for the farm and farmstead;" Vivian's "First principles of soil fertility;" Montgomery's "Production of farm crops;" Hood's "Farm horticulture;" Lewis' "Poultry production;" Woll's "Handbook of farmers and dairymen;" Warren's "Farm management."

Salary Increases

In addition to the salary schedule of Public library, Cleveland, Ohio, reported last month, the following has also been adopted:

For Division heads at Main library, a minimum of \$1,600.

For Branch librarians of large branches open full hours, minimum of \$1,800.

For Heads of departments, a minimum of \$2,000.

No maximum for these has just been established.

For the fourth time in less than three years the salaries of the library staff of the Indianapolis public library have

been advanced. In 1917 the average salary of the staff positions was \$50; in 1920 it is \$111. The schedule which will go into effect, July, 1920, represents a total increase of 25 per cent.

At the same time the increase was adopted, a schedule of professional and administrative staff positions, grades and qualifications was also adopted. The schedule is based on education, library training, experience, natural ability, length of service, personal qualifications, scope and responsibility of duties. The first year in the library is probationary. All appointments are subject to the question of reappointment at the end of the first year on the basis of value of service. The annual increase of compensation within each grade will be at the rate of \$10 a month, conditioned upon efficiency ratings made during the year, to be determined by the librarian. Promotions in positions will be based on efficiency ratings and promotion tests. Members of the staff who assume extra duties assigned by the librarian will receive \$10 a month in addition to the regular salary, provided that such duties are taken in addition to regularly assigned service and responsibilities. Seniority of service does not in itself justify promotion or increased compensation.

The schedule is one that has been worked out with considerable care by the librarian and his advisors and was adopted by the board almost without question. The staff consisting of 76 persons, not including the librarian, assistant librarian, substitutes and pages has the following record:

19 have had regular library school training.

46 have had summer library school or Indianapolis training course trainings.

23 have done library work in other libraries.

20 have previously engaged in teaching.

19 have had business or office experience.

7 have had normal school training.

30 have had special courses of study.
25 have degrees from recognized colleges (32%).

8 others have had at least 3 years college work.

18 others have had at least one year college work.

The salaries of the staff of the Public library of Virginia, Minnesota, have been increased \$10 a month each by the Library Board. There will be another readjustment of salaries in April.

The report on the salaries of the Public library of Minneapolis shows that the increase in salaries for the past four years has been 17½ per cent, while the increase in the living cost during the same period has been 138 per cent. A petition asking for remedial action has been presented to the library board.

English News Letter

London, England,
March 29, 1920.

The question of delegating powers in library matters to the local education authorities, broached in the Third Interim report of the Ministry of Reconstruction's committee on adult education and introduced as a legal factor by the new act, has led to an inevitable renewal of the discussion of possible co-operation between libraries and schools. Two of the monthly meetings of the Library Association, held in the rooms of the National library for the blind, Westminster, have been devoted to this matter. At the first meeting Mr T. R. Rand and Mrs Frayer, the headmaster and headmistress respectively of the London County Council's schools at Poplar and Bromley-by-Bow read papers treating with this subject from the teachers' point of view. The February meeting took the form of a conference, between the members of the association and delegates from the various associations of head and assistant masters and mistresses, to consider the possibilities of co-operation with secondary schools. Mr A. E. Twentymann, of the Board of Education, opened a lively discussion with a short paper in which he laid stress upon the advisability

of founding a central library on the lines of the existing Central library for students, or of putting that institution upon a proper basis by means of an annual government grant.

The Library Assistants' association, and the North Midland library association have also devoted meetings to this question, and the current *Library World* contains an article, by the writer of this letter, on the Relation between the library and the school. By the way, this same issue contains a letter by "Aristonymous" which may interest American librarians, in which exception is taken to certain passages in the *Library Journal* dealing with the Paris library, and American methods are accused of fostering "money-grabbing materialism" to the neglect of literary and artistic development—a view which is not shared by all British librarians.

Another matter of great interest was dealt with, at a recent meeting of the Library Assistants' association, by Mr Archibald E. Cummins in a paper on "The position of the junior assistant." With you, where women predominate in library work, the problem is not so acute, but in England where, especially before the war, librarianship was and is primarily a men's profession, the fact that there are, and always will be, many more subordinate positions than there are senior ones must be considered. Every year a certain, and large, proportion of juniors must leave the profession, and Mr Cummins wisely contends that it is the duty of all library authorities to see that the general education of their junior assistants is not neglected, so that those who have to seek other employment shall have gained and not lost by their library experience.

Americans will doubtless be interested in the Report of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, which has just been published. The work of this Trust has been a vital factor in recent library developments in Great Britain—in fact there is little doubt that one of the precipitants of the recent legislation was the rural library work of the Trust. Were

the rural library schemes, financed by the Trust only for a short period, to be continued on the cessation of the grant, and were county education authorities authorized to provide or to administer libraries? These two points were settled by the 1919 Act. Thruout the past year, rural library schemes have been in active operation in Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Montrose, Yorkshire, the North of Scotland, and Perthshire, while other schemes have been established, with the assistance of the Trust, in Nottinghamshire, Radnorshire, Denbryshire and Wiltshire, and further developments are contemplated. In addition to this, grants for building purposes amounting to £22,500 and £20,000 have been made to Ipswich and Bethnal Green, London, £2,500 has been granted to Manchester university for the establishment of a library in connection with the education of the deaf, and the yearly sum of £400 paid to the Central library for students, London. Further, as will be remembered, the annual amount of £1,500 for a period of five years has been promised to the School of librarianship at University college, London.

LIONEL ROY Mc COLVIN.

Special Collections at Riverside, Cal.

The John Correja memorial collection of books on architecture and design and related engineering will be housed in the main stack room. Special cases will be made for the larger volumes which must be shelved flat. In addition to the library itself, Mrs Correja has given \$3000 for the maintenance of the collection and it is hoped that the fund will soon reach \$5000. A committee is empowered to select a book-plate.

Another donation of money is from B. Ogden Chisholm of New York, a visitor at the Glenwood Mission Inn, who is interested in prisoners, prison reform, crime and punishment, the prevention of crime, and social salvage.

Mrs Joseph S. Porter of Portland, Connecticut, has also made a donation to this collection.

These donations of money and the \$5000 given for the Ethan Allen Chase collection will undoubtedly be followed by other endowments for special purposes.

As soon as the war is over the Schneider collection of books in German will be combined with other languages, the collection to be known as the Schneider collection of books in foreign languages.

As the Riverside public library approaches 90,000 volumes, it is possible to point with more or less pride to these several collections with or without endowment. In addition to those noted the following may be mentioned:

The collection of folk literature and ballads to which Mr W. A. Publow, secretary of the Butterick Company, has so kindly contributed his beautiful set of the Arabian Nights.

The collection of material displaying the historic and romantic background of horticulture and agriculture, of which a bulletin will soon be printed.

The small working library on genealogy and related history.

The collection of illustrated books for children and the large collection of mounted and unmounted pictures.

J. F. D.

Civil Service Examination

The Civil Service Commission of the city of Milwaukee, announces that a non-assembled examination will be held for the position of librarian in the Milwaukee public library to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Charles E. McLenegan. This examination will be open to applicants from anywhere, who are citizens of the United States. Applications will be received at any time and definite announcement will be made as soon as the details have been decided upon. A definite date has not yet been set for the examination. The salary for this position was \$5,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to M. H. Place, secretary, Civil Service Commission, City hall, Milwaukee, Wis.

American Library Association

Change in date of annual meeting

As the railroads have refused to grant a special rate at the time set for the convention, the date of meeting has been changed and the convention will be held at Colorado Springs, June 2-7 inclusive, so that delegates may avail themselves of the summer excursion rates effective June 1. By leaving Chicago shortly after midnight, May 31, and by having a sufficient number to secure a special train, Colorado Springs will be reached in time for breakfast, June 2. It is, therefore, especially important that all who can possibly arrange to do so should send in word to join the special train, if there is any thought of attending the meeting.

The summer excursion rates only extend from Chicago to Colorado Springs and return, so that tickets from eastern points must be bought to Chicago at regular rates. The summer rates include any other points west of Chicago that delegates may desire to visit. As most of the saving is on tickets between Chicago and points west, this arrangement will be almost as good for eastern delegates. The summer excursion rate can be roughly estimated at a fare and one-third for the round trip.

The New England party will leave Boston, May 30 from the South station and will be joined by those from New York, Philadelphia and other Atlantic cities. Arrangements have been made by the Burlington route for the special train from Chicago to Colorado Springs.

Round trip rates from Chicago and points west to Colorado Springs with stop-over privileges, good until October 31, are as follows: Chicago, \$44.82; St. Louis, \$39.42; Omaha, \$28.62; Kansas City, \$28.62; Duluth, \$50.49; St. Paul, \$43.20.

Registration for special trains must be made before May 20 and price of Pullman reservation must accompany request as deposit. There is no discount on the Pullman fares. Further information regarding the special party from Chicago will be furnished by John F. Phelan, of the Chicago public library.

An advance attendance register will be

arranged as usual. This will include all who attend the conference. The list will be compiled from hotel bookings made through the A. L. A. representative at Colorado Springs. All who expect to attend, but who do not make their hotel reservation through the above agency should send name, library position, home address, Colorado Springs address not later than May 15, to Manly B. Ormes, librarian, Colorado college, Colorado Springs.

Program

The program for the A. L. A. meeting has not yet been fully developed, but a few decisions have been reached.

There will be five general sessions. Some of the topics discussed will be: The A. L. A. and the library workers, the president's address; Modern Medusa, Frederick C. Hicks, Columbia university; presentation of various features of the Enlarged Program; Staff problems, under the direction of Miss Cornelia Marvin, State librarian of Oregon. The inarticulate library assistant, Marjory Doud, Public library, St. Louis; How can the beneficence of libraries be directed more successfully towards their assistants, Lora Rich, Public library, Chicago; Adventures in Oriental book shops, Miss Marvin, (Illustrated); New needs and responsibilities, John Riddington, University of British Columbia library.

The various sections will provide programs of interest to those engaged in the different lines of library work.

The completed program will be issued in the *A. L. A. Bulletin* for May and very probably in the June number of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*.

New assistant in headquarters

Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle has resigned the principalship of the Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh, to accept a position with the American Library Association. She will be in charge of the Headquarters office in Chicago until Mr Milam, newly appointed executive secretary can personally assume this responsibility. She will begin her new duties the last week in April.

Artena M. Chapin who resigned about a year ago from the librarianship of Redlands, Cal., is engaged temporarily at A. L. A. headquarters in Chicago during the changes that are taking place.

Co-operation between A. L. A. and S. L. A.

The A. L. A. Committee on Enlarged Program, at a recent meeting, passed the following resolution, looking to closer co-operation with the Special Libraries association, the resolution being introduced by J. H. Friedel, the S. L. A. representative on the committee:

Voted, That with the approval of the Executive Board of the American Library Association and the Executive Committee of the Special Libraries Association, that all work under the Enlarged Program that concerns business and industrial libraries be done only on the advice and approval of a committee of seven; three of whom shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the A. L. A. and three by the Executive Committee of the S. L. A., these six to choose one additional member, who shall be or become a member both of the A. L. A. and the S. L. A.

The Executive Board of the A. L. A. has approved this action and President Hadley has appointed the following to represent the A. L. A. on this Committee: Samuel H. Ranck, librarian, Grand Rapids public library; E. H. McClelland, Technology librarian, Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, and Louise B. Krause, librarian of H. M. Byllesby Company, Chicago.

Report of committee on nominations

The committee on nominations has presented its report to the Executive Board, and nominated the following members to the elective positions to be filled at the Colorado Springs conference:

For president: Miss Alice S. Tyler, director Western Reserve library school, Cleveland, Ohio.

For first vice-president: H. H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

For second vice-president: Miss Louise B. Krause, librarian of The H. M. Byllesby Company, Chicago.

For members of Executive Board (for a term of three years each): George B. Utley, librarian, Newberry library, Chicago; Frank P. Hill, librarian, Brooklyn public library.

For members of council (for a term of five years each): Miss M. E. Ahern, editor, *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, Chicago; W. O. Carson, inspector of libraries for Province of Ontario, Toronto; Luther L. Dickerson, in charge of Library service War department, Washington; C. F. D. Belden, librarian, Boston public library; Miss Julia Ideson, librarian, Carnegie library, Houston, Texas.

For trustee of the Endowment fund (for a term of three years): W. W. Appleton, New York City, (for re-election).

The committee on nominations comprised the following: Samuel H. Ranck, Chairman; Mary F. Isom, Theodore W. Koch, Frank K. Walter, Charlotte Templeton.

Section 2 of the By-laws to the Constitution provides that the "Committee shall report to the Executive board, which shall, after adoption of the report, publish its nominations in the *Bulletin* at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the Association."

The report was duly presented to the Executive board and a correspondence vote requested on its adoption. The board is not unanimous in its vote, and therefore, by the constitutional provisions under which correspondence votes are taken, the report is not yet approved. It is, however, here given as information to the membership. GEO. B. UTLEY.

Enlarged Program Meetings

The plan of the committee on the Enlarged Program of having regional meetings attended by trustees and other delegates has been carried out successfully for the past few weeks all over the country. According to its plan, the committee invited the governors of the various states to appoint delegates to attend a meeting called at some central point, offering to pay the expenses of these delegates if necessary.

The object of these meetings was to discuss the ways and means of carrying out a campaign to raise the two million dollars called for. At all of these meetings someone from the committee has been present and explained to the company the purpose and intent of the Enlarged Program. Mr Milam has gone thru the Southwest, as far as Texas; Mr Hill and Mr Tripp went thru the Northwest to the Pacific coast and returned by the Southern route. The committee was represented in Kansas City region by Mr J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., of Boston.

The reports of these various meetings indicate very good attendance and animated discussions of the proposed campaign. Miss Mary L. Titcomb, Mr John Cotton Dana, Mr Coolidge and Mr Milam were the principal speakers at a meeting held at Atlantic City for the Middle Atlantic cities and states. About 25 persons were present, most of whom had been appointed as official state delegates by the governors. Another meeting for this region will be held at Atlantic City, April 30, when the principal address will be made by R. R. Bowker, editor of the *Library Journal*.

New England letter

A letter sent out thru New England by J. G. Moulton, of Massachusetts, in behalf of the A. L. A. Enlarged Program urges it upon the attention of all those in New England interested in the development of libraries. The letter presents a statement on the Enlarged Program of the A. L. A. by Mr J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., as follows:

I. A. L. A. . . . has more than 4,000 members; represents the library service that now covers a community of a population of about 40,000,000 the rest of the people of the United States and dependencies being still without established library centers. Each member of the A. L. A. stands for 10,000 people, among whom should be found those who will give an average of 5 cents per head of the population to promote the extension of library ser-

vice to those who have it not . . . Means good government by the intelligent consent of the governed, with special privileges to none and equal educational and political opportunities for all. (*Condensed.*)

II. The Program. Those who believe in the value of books will wish to have their own community do its share and the tentative financial basis of 5 cents per head to carry out during three years the \$2,000,000 program. *(*Condensed.*)

III. The Method. This appeal is as follows:

The thing to do both for the members of the A. L. A., and all friends of the idea of "Books for Everybody," is

1. Study the Enlarged Program.
2. Adopt as the basis of local efforts those parts that will appeal to local advisers and co-workers.
3. Explain the A. L. A., the Program, and the special features to two or three of the men and women most likely to be actively interested. This will require *intensive* effort.

4. Classify carefully possible givers and the amounts needed to oversubscribe (at five cents per head of population) the territory tributary to each library.

5. Use the help of one or more influential subscribers (not necessarily for the larger amounts) to get the largest single contributions that are needed from the men or women who can be induced to give them; and work downward from this high level till the field is covered, remembering that—

6. The money is to be raised by earnest, competent, and not overpaid public servants for purely public purposes and that—

7. The A. L. A. has a record of public service that amply justifies this appeal.

J. RANDOLPH COOLIDGE, JR.

A Circular of Inquiry

A circular letter signed by a dozen leading libraries of the country who are not in full accord with the plans and purposes of those developing the

*(For Budget see PUBLIC LIBRARIES 25:199.)

Enlarged Program has been issued in an attempt to obtain a warrant to make recommendations to the next meeting of the A. L. A. to more clearly define the extent of the campaign proposed by the E. P. committee.

Hospital Library Service

The Public library of Sioux City, Iowa, has issued a pamphlet on their hospital library service, established November 1, 1919. The librarian, Mr Sumner, is enthusiastic over the reception the work has had by the hospital authorities and by the accumulation of evidence that this movement is one calculated to meet with the highest appreciation, in rendering a good deal of effective service. Mr. Sumner says:

I feel very keenly that the idea back of public library hospital service is very big and presents such possibilities for service that it is worthy of serious consideration on the part of every public library in America, that has one or more hospitals at their very door.

The report which has been issued on the work in Sioux City is illustrated and is largely directive so that librarians may find it advantageous to have a copy of it.

Memorial Libraries in Virginia

The Virginia legislature which has just adjourned provided for a system of local libraries by giving to the state and municipal authorities, power to levy a tax to provide a building and maintenance for a memorial library. This tax when collected is to be known as the library fund and the expenditure of it is under the exclusive control of the local school board for library purposes. State aid annually to the sum of \$500 may be given to any locality spending a similar amount except that in places of over 10,000 inhabitants a similar expenditure may be made not to exceed \$5000. The State library board will act in an administrative capacity and is directed to make an equitable distribution of the State appropriation among the counties, cities and towns applying for same. In order to meet the requirements, \$25,000 for each of the next two years is appro-

priated and \$2500 for an employee of the State library board to supervise and organize local library work.

Provision is also made for authority to borrow money under a certain limit for buildings or additions to buildings already erected. The legislature also provided for extension of the State library of Virginia and its grounds. If the city of Richmond will convey the lot of land designated, the state of Virginia will erect a building thereon to cost not more than \$2,000,000. The general plan provides a system of libraries consisting of the State library at the capital, with its circulation and traveling libraries thruout the state, and in addition the provision for every community that so desires, a central library system under the State library board.

Library Workers' Organization

It is proposed to form an organization at Atlantic City, April 30, to be known as The Library Workers' Association. It will be made up of librarians and assistants without library school training who are eager to succeed and whose success depends on experience, rather than special training. The preliminary circular sent out bespeaks for the organization the highest commendation. The spirit expressed in the announcement is admirable, the object is worthy and the movement is one of the things that have been waiting for consideration in library organization for a long time. Properly developed, wisely managed, such an organization cannot but result in good for library service which, of course, is the ultimate aim of every true librarian. Broad-mindedness, fairness and sincerity of purpose will make the organization worthy of the highest respect. Founded on anything else, it will come it naught and deservedly so.

William James defined intelligence as the ability to deal with novel situations.

Library Meetings

Illinois—A series of district meetings was held in Illinois during February and March, under the auspices of the Illinois library association assisted by the State library extension commission. They were arranged with the view of enabling every librarian in the state to visit one or more all day meetings. The attendance varied from 8 to 65, an unusually large proportion of library directors being present, as well as librarians, assistants, and interested citizens. Whenever the size of the meeting made it possible, the visitors gathered around a table, and discussions were very informal. Among the topics discussed were loan desk routine, cooperation with the schools, library extension and publicity, county libraries, training of apprentices, mending, binding, periodicals and book selection. Time was arranged for visits to the local libraries and other points of interest, and in some places the visitors were entertained at luncheon by the local board or library.

The places of meeting were Oak Park, Kankakee, Rochelle, Peru, Bloomington, Galesburg, Quincy, East St. Louis, Pana, Paris, Cairo, Mount Vernon, Galena and Rock Island. Considerable interest was aroused in the library laws and in the possibilities of membership in the state association.

Inland Empire—The annual meeting of librarians of the Inland Empire teacher's association was held in Spokane, March 31, in the Lewis and Clark high school, Miss M. Belle Sweet presiding. Stress was laid on the need for more adequate library facilities in the rural districts of Idaho and Washington.

Howard T. Lewis, professor of economics in the University of Idaho, spoke of the dangers to American standards latent in isolated rural groups. In these out-of-the-way places are men perfectly sincere but warped and crooked in their mental processes. Steeped in their radical prejudices they develop a class consciousness which is un-American and which is rife in evil potentialities. To offset

their perverted ideas they should have adequate library facilities, where they may obtain newspapers and magazines which discuss matters of the day intelligently.

Miss Caroline W. Flood, county superintendent of Boundary county, Idaho, addressed the section on "The rural teacher and library facilities." She reminded her hearers of the thousands of square miles in Idaho remote from modern conveniences. The bad roads make intercourse with any community at any distance out of the question. This isolation is demoralizing to those isolated groups. They should have some stimulating interests, such as a library might give thru books. She plead for a county library law for Idaho, which would do for Idaho what a similar law does for California.

R. L. Kirk, superintendent of schools, The Dalles, Oregon, addressed the section on School libraries in Oregon.

Miss Mary B. Humphrey, reference librarian at Washington State college library, spoke on "Education in American ideals and citizenship," in which she presented a very full bibliography on the subject of Americanization.

Miss Mary B. Humphrey was elected chairman of the library section for the coming year. Miss Elizabeth T. Stout, librarian of the Lewis and Clark high school of Spokane, was re-elected secretary.

ELIZABETH T. STOUT.

Ohio—The College section of the Ohio library association assembled for its third Spring meeting in connection with the Ohio college association, Friday afternoon, April 2, in the Ohio State University library. Professor Azariah S. Root, librarian of Oberlin college, presided.

The program resolved itself into a series of round table discussions on several topics of current library interest in colleges.

The first subject was that of duplication of books for required class reading, and was introduced by Miss Maud Jeffrey of the Ohio State University

library. It was agreed that the ration of one book to every fifteen students was a good norm to establish. As to the payment for duplicate copies, several methods were in use or suggested for use. One was payment out of library department funds, another was charging a semester or term fee for library reading similar to a laboratory fee, and another was collecting special assessments from large classes. It was the general opinion that greater care should be exercised by the professor in his selection of books for reserve shelves in order that space will not be taken by books read only a few times and perhaps not at all.

The next subject under discussion was that of collation of material received. It developed that careful collation of everything received, documents, periodicals, and gifts as well as orders, was the wisest plan at the present time, altho this was not universally the procedure in libraries represented. It was the experience of Mr Root of Oberlin that publishers were generally willing to replace imperfect copies, even of gifts, if the books were in stock.

Other questions considered were: Agents for periodicals, Buying odd numbers of periodicals, When publishers are out of books where shall we go to replace them? The purchase of German books.

No solution was offered for the problem of the purchase of German books. It was felt that owing to the unstable condition of exchange, now is not the time to negotiate for large orders of German books.

The following libraries were represented in the meeting, Denison university, Oberlin college, Ohio State university, Ohio Wesleyan university, Otterbein university, Wittenberg college.

BERTHA M. SCHNEIDER,
Secretary.

Ontario.—Easter Sunday was more like Christmas, but that did not daunt at all the spirits of those in attendance at

the twentieth annual meeting of the Ontario library association on April 5-6. As a matter of fact, the attendance was larger and more representative than in any previous year, and the whole spirit of the meeting was optimistic in a high degree.

The annual report of the secretary-treasurer recorded an active year in library work in Ontario and made survey of library developments in the United States, Great Britain and other parts of the world.

The principal addresses were those of Rev. Principal Bruce Taylor, Queen's university, Kingston, on "Digging up one's parents"; Professor Pelham Edgar, M.A., Ph.D., Victoria university, on "Recent Canadian poets"; and Mr Frank Wise, president, Macmillan Company of Canada, on "The public library from the publisher's point of view."

Professor Edgar dealt almost exclusively with the Canadian poets of the last few years. He paid a high tribute to the work of these poets, claiming for them a place among the very best of the minor poets of the English speaking world today. He saw in Canadian poetry a promise of great poets, if Canada will give that encouragement and sympathetic criticism which is necessary for the creation of great poetry.

Principal Taylor discussed, in a most informing and suggestive way, the great question of how far an author is justified in using either his neighbors or his relatives and their personal history as material for his books. He covered a wide range of literature and discussed the question from many viewpoints in a most engaging and suggestive manner.

The paper by Mr Wise was a very interesting presentation of the public library from a somewhat unusual point of view. Mr Wise recognized the great possibilities of libraries in the stimulation of not only national literature but good literature generally, and strongly urged that library boards should take every care in the building up of their library in all the different departments. He pointed out the temptation to

strengthen the library in one section, leaving it bare in another.

The members of the association were represented on the program by Miss Mary J. L. Black, Fort William, on "Peeps into bookland"; D. M. Grant, B. A., Sarnia, on "The public library as a centre of local history research"; E. A. Dickenson, B.A., Wallaceburg, on "The advantages of a well-organized library"; Miss Agnes Lancefield, of Windsor, on "The building of a really representative library"; and Rev. J. J. Patterson, B.A., Sarnia, on "The clergymen and the public library." These were well received and well presented studies of their respective themes. Miss Black restricted her general subject to a discussion of the Canadian books of 1919, and made an able presentation of what Canadian writers did last year.

The discussion that followed these papers was unusually able and suggestive, revealing an acquaintance with the library problems and methods on the part of trustees and the librarians that was extremely encouraging.

A round table conference on Tuesday afternoon on reference work, conducted by Miss Frances Staton and Miss Elizabeth Moir, of the reference department, Toronto public library, closed an exceptionally good program.

The exhibit of the books and library supplies of the Publishers' was again an attractive feature. On Monday evening, not only was the library building thrown open in all departments to all present, but the Toronto public library association extended an informal reception which was very enjoyable.

The outlook for library work in Ontario is especially bright and the Executives are planning to make next year's annual meeting one that shall fittingly celebrate the coming of age of the Ontario library association.

The officers for the coming year are as follows:—

President, B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., Public library, Kitchener; first vice-president, W. J. Sykes, B.A., Carnegie library, Ottawa; second vice-president, W. H. Murch, Public library, St.

Thomas; secretary-treasurer, E. A. Hardy, B.A., D. Paed., Collier Street, Toronto.

Counsellors: W. J. Briden, B.A., Public library, St. Catharines; Miss Lillian Smith, B.A., Public library, Toronto; C. A. Byam, Esq., Public library, New Liskeard; G. W. Rudlen, B.A., Public library, Sault Ste. Marie; F. M. Lafosse, Public library, Peterborough; D. M. Grant, B.A., ex-president, Public Library, Sarnia.

Coming Meetings

The Wisconsin library association will hold its annual meeting, October 13-15, 1920.

The Ohio library association will hold its 1920 meeting in Cleveland in October next.

The present plan for the next meeting of the Illinois library association provides that it be held in Springfield, October 12-14, 1920.

The following places will entertain Iowa district library meetings on the dates given: Charles City, May 4; Sheldon, May 6; Webster City, May 7.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the California library association will be held at Riverside, April 30-May 3, jointly with the eleventh annual convention of the California county libraries.

The annual meeting of library workers of South central and Southwestern Kansas will be held on Tuesday, May 3 in the City library of Wichita. There will be morning, afternoon, and evening sessions of interest to trustees as well as librarians.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota library association will be held at Hibbing, September 15-18. An interesting and helpful program is being arranged for the professional session. The social side of the meeting is being given careful attention. Arrangements for visits to other libraries and interesting sights of The Range will be made. A number of prominent people from out of the state are expected to be present. Miriam E. Carey, president; Margaret Hickman, secretary.

Interesting Things in Print

An article in the *Los Angeles Times* for March 19 and in the *Riverside Enterprise* for March 18, announced that Joseph F. Daniels, librarian of the Riverside public library and the Riverside County free library had been elected managing secretary of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce, but failed to make it plain that Mr Daniels had declined the honor, preferring to stay in the library service.

Thomas J. White, Inc., of Brooklyn, New York, has made a special effort in collecting and photographing war posters of all kinds and all nationalities, until it claims now to have the most complete photographic collection of this material in existence. Specially strong is its reproduction of war poster issues, including both American and foreign, of all the countries recently engaged. A number of the A. L. A. posters are among their collections.

A recent issue of the *Indianapolis News* contains a letter signed by Joseph W. Russell, Boston, Massachusetts, expressing the highest commendation of the service and courtesy which he had received from the Indianapolis public library in the sojourn of some several months which he made in that city. Among other things Mr Russell says, "For efficient management, courteous treatment, and a sincere desire to help, I have never seen them equalled and this from a Bostonian, the home of the public libraries and the 'hub of the universe.'"

A recent edition of the *Los Angeles Times* contains a very interesting and comprehensive account of the Huntington library which is to find its final resting place in Pasadena. The account is in the form of an interview with Hershel E. Jones of the *Minneapolis Journal* who is himself a book collector of no mean grade. Mr Jones has been interested in book collecting for 30 years, having a special interest along special lines at different times. Just now he is engaged in forming a collection of 100 books on the period of drama and poetry before the time of Shakespeare.

While the cost of producing books in the present day seems to be soaring skyward, it might not be a bad plan for the librarian of the children's department of the public library to replace some of the old favorites for the youngsters who are just getting into library privileges. Lists of the "Every boy library" and the "Every child should know" series have some prime favorites in them, from authors which insure their suitability for boys and girls.

The traveling libraries system of British Columbia is reaching the isolated parts of the province despite small means.

The quality of reading done shows improvement, judging by the reports on the book cards. The percentage of non-fiction is larger than that reported by public libraries. The fixed collection of books has been done over into an open-shelf collection with satisfactory results. The *Agricultural Journal* published by the Government allows from two to three columns a month for articles and lists of books from the traveling library department. The books on these lists are sent by mail to anyone applying for them.

The Library commission of British Columbia was appointed in July, 1919, but no appropriation was made for carrying on its work.

In an article in the *Bookman* for February entitled "Cobwebs on the family library" Lucy Keeler says:

I have concluded that the ordinary residence is no more the place for a comprehensive library than it is the place for the loom, the butter churn, or the cobbler's bench. As well keep a spool of every shade of sewing silk, lest once in 20 years it be needed, or a barrel of molasses, as thousands of books for a possible emergency. The public library must become the central depot for the mass of books used by any community.

The *Outlook* for April 7, has an article by Joy E. Morgan on The library renaissance and the American Library Association.

Library Schools California state library

An interesting event of the month was the talk by Miss Kate M. Foley, Home teacher of the blind, describing her work and some of its results. Robert Rea, librarian of the San Francisco public library discussed the qualifications of a successful librarian. Mrs May Chenny, appointment secretary of the University of California described the work that bureaus of occupation are planning and carrying on thruout the United States. A most delightful lecture on Walt Whitman was given by Charles Pease. The lecture will be followed by readings from the poet at a later date. Miss Eleanor Hitt of the Yolo County free library, has begun her course of lectures on modern fiction.

At the Vocational conference conducted by the Bureau of Occupations of the California alumni association at Berkeley, Miss Mabel Gillis, assistant-state librarian presented library work as a vocation for women. It was encouraging to note that the subject of library work called forth a larger audience than many of the subjects offered.

The students attended the luncheon and meeting of the Fifth district of the California library association held in Sacramento, March 27.

Blanche Chalfant, '14, resigned her position as librarian of the Inyo County free library, Independence, to accept a position in the Los Angeles public library.

Anne Margrave, '14, assistant in the Santa Barbara County free library, Santa Barbara, resigned to accept the position of librarian of the Inyo County free library.

Edith Edinbury, '18, is an assistant in the University of California library at Berkeley.

Mrs Hazel Meddaugh Heffner, '18, is a temporary assistant in the Berkeley public library.

Eunice Steele, '16, was married March 2, to Jay Hamilton Price.

Josephine Whitbeck, '16, resigned her position as assistant in the Contra Costa County free library, Martinez, to take up agriculture.

Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh

The class, accompanied by the principal, visited the Detroit library sys-

tem, the Normal school at Ypsilanti and the University of Michigan library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the week of March 29. The students had the opportunity of seeing the new library building at Detroit in process of construction and the recently completed library building of the University of Michigan, where the departmental library system was of especial interest.

Dr Werrett W. Charters of the Carnegie institute of technology and Professor Lincoln R. Gibbs of the University of Pittsburgh, lectured to the school during the month on "Books on education" and "Books on general literature," respectively. The lectures were given in connection with the course in advanced reference work.

Elizabeth H. Dexter, special certificate, '13, is investigator for the Connecticut state board of charities.

Martha E. English, '14, was married to Harry B. Rhine, March 5, 1920, in Pittsburgh.

Eva S. W. Hall, '18, has resigned as children's librarian of the Brumback library, Van Wert, Ohio, to become first assistant in the school and children's department of the Public library, Newark, N. J.

Janet M. Scott, '17, has been appointed children's librarian at the Homewood branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Edwina M. Steel, '16, has resigned her position of children's librarian of the Homewood branch, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

SARAH C. N. BOGLE,
Principal.

New York public library

Class instruction in the advanced courses closed on Tuesday, March 30. The work in these courses consisted of class meetings supplemented by readings, problems, quizzes and examinations. In some instances, the problems were of a practical nature, involving, for instance, the working up and the carrying thru of a program for a round table, the mapping out of an outline of lectures on vertical filing, the framing of an examination for use in connection with a graded library service, and the choice of a collection of children's books for the use of English and American children in a foreign country. It was attempted in this way to render

the outside work such as might have to be planned and carried thru by an experienced member of a library staff.

In the month of March, there were given in the open course relating to the artistic side of book-making, a lecture upon printing by Henry W. Kent, secretary of the Metropolitan Museum; a lecture on types by T. M. Cleland; a lecture on historic book bindings by Ruth Granniss, librarian of the Grolier club, and one on collectors and collecting by Henrietta Bartlett, bibliographer. The open course in administration included a lecture on library commission work by John H. Lowe, assistant librarian of the Brooklyn public library; a lecture on the relation between the librarian and the book-seller by Frederick G. Melcher, vice-president of the R. R. Bowker Company; and three lectures on the principles of management by John B. Edgar, instructor in the School of Commerce, New York university.

The registration in the various open courses was 266, the actual number of persons enrolled being 152. Of the total number, 12 came from distant sections of the country, as far away as North Carolina, Ohio, and Quebec; and about 70 came from the New York district, exclusive of the New York public library; and about 70 from the staff of the New York public library. This count does not include the book selection evenings, of which no record was kept; these evenings were open to all concerned, and the attendance varied from 75 to over 200. The figures seem significant in view of the pressure under which libraries have worked this winter, and in view of the very trying weather conditions which prevailed, particularly in February and March.

The school is indebted to a large number of libraries for hospitality extended to the group of students which visited Albany and New England upon the occasion of the annual tour of inspection, March 26 to April 1. The greatest kindness was shown at all points and the students profited greatly

by the opportunity extended to see the various libraries and to become familiar with their workings.

The annual commencement exercises will be held on Friday morning, June 11, in the lecture room of the New York public library. The entrance examinations for the school year 1920-21 will take place on the following day, Saturday, June 12.

ERNEST J. REECE,
Principal.

New York state library

Twenty-seven Albany students, with Director Wyer, spent several very busy days (March 30-April 6) in Northampton, Springfield, Hartford, Providence and Boston, on the annual library trip. There were visited the six public libraries in these cities and in Brookline, five college libraries, Harvard, Smith, Brown, Trinity and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (all in new buildings), two typical proprietary libraries, the Boston and the Providence Athenaeums, and six representative and interesting special libraries, including those of the Insurance Association, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Annmary Brown memorial collection of incunabula and the John Carter Brown library, 19 in all. An afternoon was spent at the Riverside Press and an hour with Mr C. E. Goodspeed in his Park Street book shop. The very cordial welcome everywhere accorded, the hearty hospitality which found frequent expression in luncheons and teas and the careful preparation for the school's visit by each library, added much to both the pleasure and the profit of the week. Another and a smaller party of seniors visited the libraries of New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

Mr W. S. Biscoe, who has been ill since early in March, is recovering from an operation performed several weeks ago but is not expected to be able to resume his work in the school for some time yet. In the interim, Dr James Sullivan, the State historian, will conduct Mr Biscoe's course in history of books and foreign libraries, and Mr Wyer will

continue the course in Subject Bibliography.

On the afternoon of March 26, the faculty of the library school with a few of the students who were not away for field practice work had the pleasure of welcoming the students of the library school of the New York public library accompanied by Miss Sutliff and Miss Tie-mann.

Pratt institute

The event of chief interest during the past month has been the annual spring trip. This was the year for the Pennsylvania visit, and instead of playing one night stands throughout the state we tried the experiment of spending the week at Philadelphia, making short trips from there. In addition to seeing the Philadelphia libraries, we went to Harrisburg, West Chester, Jenkintown, and Bryn Mawr. These, together with stops in Princeton on the way down and at Trenton on the return trip, gave us a week of considerable variety of interest, while it was the least fatiguing and the most inexpensive trip we have ever made. The unpacking at the Young Friends Association and settling down for a week was in itself one of the most comforting sensations the vice-director ever experienced. Princeton university, the Free library of Philadelphia, the West Chester normal school, the librarians of Harrisburg, the trustees of the Abington library, the State commission and the Public library staff at Trenton all refreshed us when weary and sent us on our way rejoicing in the kindness and hospitality of librarians everywhere.

The work of the third term has been somewhat revised this year. The course in book selection has been extended into this term and the work with children has been concentrated in it. The lectures by Miss Clara W. Hunt and those from Miss Annie Carroll Moore, formerly given in the second term, are to be given in April, together with four lectures on children's books by Miss E. Mildred Fish, formerly of the Queens Borough public library, now in temporary charge of our own children's room. The course in the history of classification has been

made elective, and those who desire may spend that time on children's books.

Our own school and that of the New York public library have united in two courses this term, the Pratt school going to New York for Mr Reece's lectures on library buildings, while the New York school is coming over here for Mr Stevens' course on the history of libraries. Both schools are enjoying this opportunity of becoming better acquainted.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,
Vice-director.

Los Angeles

The elective courses in library work with children and schools and high school libraries have been unusually successful this year. In addition to the 30 lectures with required reading on books for children required of all students, given by Jasmine Britton, other aspects of children's work have been treated by Faith E. Smith, Gladys Spear Case, Gladys Crowe and Lenore Townsend of the Los Angeles public library staff, and special lecturers. Miss Smith's course dealt with the relationship of the public library to the public schools, and the work of the school and teachers' department. Mrs Case gave the students practice in writing annotations for children's books and lectures on vocational books. Miss Townsend, Miss Crowe, Virginia E. Graeff of the Cleveland school of art and Stephani Shutze gave examples of the art of story-telling to different types of audiences.

Mrs Susan M. Dorsey, superintendent of schools in Los Angeles, Marjorie Van Deusen, librarian of the Los Angeles high school, Winifred E. Skinner, librarian of the Pasadena high school, Blanche Coveney, formerly librarian of the Glenville high school in Cleveland, and Elizabeth Riddell, librarian of the Elementary school library in Long Beach, have added to the value of the school library course by lectures based on their experience.

A recent visitor to the school was Mildred Schaer, 1917, librarian of the Hanford public library. She talked in-

formally to the school about the work of a library in a ranching community.

Isabelle Park, '17, has been appointed assistant in the Long Beach public library.

Ruth Girton, '19, has been appointed assistant in the School department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

MARION HORTON,
Principal.

Simmons college

During the last section of the college year, April 6 to Commencement Day, June 14, the school will have the benefit of talks from a number of outside librarians.

The staff of the Boston public library this year has made most valuable contributions to the lectures. On March 25, the graduate class was permitted to visit Miss McCurdy's talk on the Order department to the Thursday morning class of the Boston public library staff, and on April 8, Mr Ennis spoke on patents to the Document class. Lectures are also promised by Mr Chase on reference work, Mr Chevalier on cataloging, and Mr Hannigan on periodicals.

Among Simmons people who are coming back are Miss Lovis, who inspired the High School library class by an account of the Stadium high school library, Tacoma, and Mrs Derman of the Library of Congress, who is to speak on May 7 on Russian library conditions.

During the Spring vacation, Miss Sutliff and a delegation from the New York library school visited the Simmons library school quarters, and on April 8 the Syracuse University library school seniors spent the afternoon at the school, and took tea with us.

Among the visits of the last part of the year are those to the Boston Athenaeum and Massachusetts state library, the libraries of Worcester, and the Brookline high school library.

Emily Ethell has been appointed assistant in the Colorado State normal school, Gunnison.

Gertrude Morse has been made children's librarian of the Oak Park public library, Oak Park, Illinois.

Marion Rust has accepted a position on the cataloging staff of the New York public library.

JUNE R. DONNELLY.

University of Washington

Registration for the Spring quarter showed an increase of three over last quarter, two former students returning, and one new student entering.

Already calls for assistants from the libraries in the Northwest indicate that the graduating class will be much too small to supply the demand.

Miss Mildred Pope, librarian of the Broadway high school, and supervisor of High School libraries, Seattle, opened the course of special lectures, April 8, with a talk on "High school librarianship—its opportunities and problems."

Dorothy Hudson '19, is now assistant in the circulation department of the Public library, Newton, Mass.

W. E. HENRY,
Director.

University of Wisconsin

Several changes are announced affecting the faculty of the school. Miss Birge has asked to be relieved as instructor in book selection, her mother's death in December making it necessary for her to devote her entire time to home duties. Miss Corinne Bacon has been secured to give an intensive course in book selection, covering the classes that remain to be considered: literature, sociology, fine arts, religion and philosophy. Miss Bacon has been able to adjust her lecture schedule at the New York Public library school and Columbia university so that she will come for three weeks, May 10-31. As announced previously, Mrs Caroline Burnite Walker gave the lectures on children's books, in January.

Miss Welles, because of illness in her family was compelled to leave the school, April 10 and has gone to California for several months. Miss Harriet C. Long, who returned from overseas in January, takes Miss Welles' place. Miss Long is a graduate of New York State library school, '10, has had charge of county work in Santa Barbara, California, has been librarian of Kern County, California, and of the Van Wert county library, Ohio, resigning the latter position to enter A. L. A. war service. She helped to organize the traveling library service on the Mexican border, later was stationed

successively at the A. E. F. University, Beaune, France, at Marseilles and at Coblenz.

The students were given a short vacation following seven weeks of field practice, class work being resumed March 31.

In the Library and the community course, directed by Miss Merrill, talks have been given on The public health nurse, by Mrs. H. H. Morgan, director, Bureau of child welfare and public health nursing, State board of health, and on The Y. M. C. A. by F. O. Leiser, secretary, Madison Y. M. C. A.

Bibliography subjects are assigned as follows:

- Miss Alford—Ojibway Indians in Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- Miss Anderson—Operation of censorship during the war.
- Mr. Bernardo—Business books for a reference collection.
- Miss Bruns—Use of newspapers and magazines in the schools for instructional purposes.
- Miss Cross—Effect of propaganda on news.
- Miss Deland—Chronological outline of English literature, 1894-date.
- Miss Dodd—History of the Near East, 1870-date.
- Miss Ewing—Relation of China and Japan since 1914.
- Miss Farrand—Social degeneracy.
- Mr. Flack—Political conditions and development in Russia since 1914.
- Miss Froggatt—Political conditions and development in Germany since 1914.
- Miss Gipp—Sugar trust—Sugar prices.
- Miss Haberman—Books for younger readers.
- Miss Hinnners—Fairy element in Dunsany.
- Miss Holden—History of the Near East, 1870-date.
- Miss Kolbeck—Community drama.
- Miss Landt—List of books for children in kindergarten and primary grades.
- Miss Lieberman—Joseph Conrad.
- Miss Lodwick—Censorship of moving pictures.
- Miss McQuaid—Irish question since 1860.
- Miss Morgan—Postage on second-class mail matter.
- Miss Muckel—State insurance.
- Mr. Munda—Municipal taxation.
- Miss Niemi—Social conditions on the Mis-sabe range, Minnesota.
- Miss Niemi—Parent-teachers associations.
- Miss Nyhuus—Romain Rolland.
- Miss Oberheim—Contribution to a bibliography on William Morris.
- Miss Paulson—Book reviewing in American newspapers and magazines.
- Mr. Perez—Oriental politics.
- Miss Powell—Electricity on the farm.
- Mr. Rodriguez—League of nations.
- Miss Rutzen—Social degeneracy.
- Miss Sander—Community music, 1915-date.
- Miss Smith—Selected stories and novels illustrating the value of cooperation.
- Miss Tanke—Freedom of speech and liberty of the press in the U. S.

Summer schools

The Library extension division of the Pennsylvania State library has sent out announcements for its Summer school for library workers to be held at State college, June 28-August 6.

A summer library school will be held at Colorado agricultural college at Fort Collins, in a session of seven weeks, beginning June 15. Further information will be furnished by the director of the Summer session, Prof. George Tavery, Agriculture college, Ft. Collins, Col.

The library division of the Department of Education of Minnesota will conduct a Summer school for library training at the University farm, June 21-July 31. It will be under the direction of Clara F. Baldwin, library director, with Harriet A. Wood, supervisor of school libraries as vice director. Ethel R. Sawyer, director of the training class, Library Association, Portland Oregon, will also assist, together with effective librarians from Minnesota.

The Library division of the Department of public instruction in Utah, headed by Miss Mary E. Downey, state library organizer, will conduct a library training school at various places throughout Utah, to meet special local conditions. The first school is to be held at the Public library of Ogden, April 10—May 22, under the direction of Miss Downey, assisted by the staff of the Ogden library. About 30 students from Utah have made arrangements to attend the school, no one not actually engaged in library work being admitted. The next school will probably be held at Cedar City at the Agricultural college and the Public library. The third will be at Provo and the fourth at Logan.

Library News Notes

Portland, Oregon —

The long cherished plans of Miss Mary Frances Isom for a music department in the Portland library are at last coming to fruition. A small room opening off the circulation room and formerly occupied by the school department, now houses the music collection and circulating art books.

At the suggestion of E. B. MacNaughton of the library board the shelves which hold the music books have been partitioned by inserting pairs of steel rods vertically, five pairs to each yard of shelving. This novel device has proved most successful in holding the books in place, which book ends would not do, and has the additional advantage of being much cheaper than wood partitions. It also makes it possible to raise or lower the shelves according to the height of the books, which could not be done with any other kind of partitioning.

The music collection now consists of 1998 scores and 1143 books about music, a total of 3141 volumes.

Some time in the future the library hopes to have a piano in a room adjoining the music room. The board is also considering the question of having phonograph records for circulation.

Pensions for library workers were discussed at the March meeting of the library board. A committee was appointed to investigate the subject and make a report at the next meeting of the board.

To increase the usefulness of her department, Miss E. Ruth Rockwood, head of the reference department, has sent out letters to lawyers and other professional and business men calling their attention to some of the resources of that department and citing some of the ways in which it can be of service to them. The response to these letters has been gratifying.

Miss Isom has received a letter from the Portland chamber of commerce commending Miss Anna Fossler, head of the technical department, for her work in carrying out the industrial exhibits in the library.

The elaborate display of flour, cereals and feeds which constituted the March number of Miss Fossler's series of industrial exhibits was perhaps the most interesting of the series to date. A replica of one of the flour mills with electric lights flashing on and off excited much attention. One little old lady, on seeing the display of flour and cereals, came beamingly to the information desk to inquire, "Has the library opened a grocery department?"

The February book meeting resolved itself into a discussion of periodicals, new ones and old ones with new characteristics. Some of the magazines reviewed were: *Asia, Bookman, Dial, New Europe, Living Age, Nation, New Republic, Survey and Unpartizan Review*.

Some of the representative books of 1919 were discussed at the March book meeting. Among these were books on the new poetry movement and poetry of 1919, La Motte's Peking dust, Belasco's Theatre through the stage door, Shaw's Heartbreak house and Swinnerton's September.

Herbert Hoover will be our next president if the Portland library staff has its way. A poll of the staff's vote for president was taken recently with the following result: Hoover, 38; Johnson, 12; Wood, 7; Lowden, 1; Bryan, 1; McAdoo, 5.
K. D. G.

Americanization in the library

The Broadway branch of the Cleveland public library is in the heart of one of the foreign districts of the city. It has been a notable instance of a community center since it was opened a number of years ago. The librarian is Mrs Eleanor E. Ledbetter who has done such notable work in the survey and reports on the Slavs in Cleveland. Thru the friendships thus formed, she has been able to secure general interest and co-operation in presenting the series of lectures given during February and March at the Broadway branch.

The first subject was Conditions in Czechoslovakia with special reference to the separation of church and state, presented by Rev Oldrich Zlamal. The ad-

dress was accompanied by Czechslovak national songs.

The second one was *The deserted Czechslovak army in Siberia*, by Joseph Martinek, a member of the national council that has just returned from a mission to Siberia. The music was Czech folksongs, presented by a society of young people.

The third lecture was on *Ukrainia*, by Mr. Milton Wright from New York. Folksongs and a trained chorus in national costume were most interesting.

The Russian revolution was presented by Mr. E. M. Yaroslavsteff, who told of the conditions that made the revolution inevitable and of the fact that the revolution is not only a political but also a social revolution. Music was furnished by the choir of the Russian Orthodox church.

Conditions in Yugoslavia was the concluding number presented by Mr. F. Tomich from Dalmatia, who spoke with dramatic fire and spirit. A great effort was made to secure as large an American audience as possible for these lectures, as an invaluable opportunity for mutual acquaintance and understanding. The audience in general was made up of three elements; the American public for whom they are specially intended; the neighborhood public, which is in general of Czech birth or ancestry; and a generous audience each time from the group which furnished the theme of the evening. The success of the series may be judged from the fact that the audience kept growing in size to the last, and many Americans expressed regret at not having attended them all.

The library was kept open after the lectures, and exhibits of post-cards and other Czech items together, which with the costumes the musical instruments and the character of music, furnished themes for conversation in the informal receptions which followed each program.

There was the truest sort of an Americanization in the mingling on equal terms and on the ground of common interests, of old and new Americans. The immigrant people who attended were all very happy over the consideration shown their

race, and their consequent good feeling toward the library and toward the America of which the library is a part, is very apparent. V.

Art exhibits in the library

For a number of years, the Fine Arts division of the Seattle public library has held a series of exhibits in the upper lobby of the central library building. Plates from illustrated books, posters, art in the public schools, specimens of flowers from Mt. Rainier, historic ornament, interior decoration, and American Library Association war work are among the exhibits which have been hung from time to time. These serve the double purpose of making interesting and instructive displays, and giving publicity to our books.

Last month, colored plates of English gardens attracted much favorable comment, and at present photographs of Mexican architecture, from Sylvester Baxter's Spanish colonial architecture in Mexico, are on display. In this connection the following from a local paper, *The Town Crier* of March 27, may be interesting:

"It will repay you to visit the exhibition on view in the Public library lobby, upstairs, to see the pictures of Spanish colonial architecture down in Mexico. If the subject is new to you, it will be a revelation of rare beauty. There is really very little native art shown in the work and much of the sculpture dates from soon after the conquest. It is attributed to a Flemish monk, Pedro Gante. The interiors are marvels of elaborate carving, murals, and altar pieces. The choir stalls of the Monastery church in the City of Mexico, the grand staircase in, the National conservatory of music, the facades and sculptured towers of the churches are extremely ornate.

The Church of San Sebastian at Tasco can scarcely be surpassed in richness or ornamentation in the world. The setting of this church is unique, with its background of low hills and facing on a plaza like that of St. Peter's at Rome. It is like a glimpse of the ecclesiastical architecture of the Old World, from which it derived so unerringly, and adds an interest to a neighboring country of which we hear so little that is not allied to politics and unfriendly invasions. Perhaps the time may come when travel will be made easy between this country and the one to the south, at least as easy as to the Orient or Europe.

The front page of the *Library Poster* of Public library, Seattle, Wash., contains the following which is good bulletin board material for any library:

THE CHILDREN'S PLAY: A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

Certain minimum requirements for children's play:

1. A mother, as instigator, audience, and playmate.

2. A home.

3. A child-community.

4. The equivalent of a tool house, a woodshed, and an attic.

5. Pets; anything from white mice to horses will do.

6. Collections of stones or bones or leaves or something.

7. Art; pictures, music, books.

The idea that children should be taught to be useful must be supplemented by the idea, equally important, that they should be prepared to live.

8. Outdoor play, all that they can hold.

9. A garden or two months a year of country life.

These are some of the things we shall provide when we learn to take either democracy or education seriously.

—Joseph Lee, in "The Playground," Aug. 1919, p. 202.

The other three pages of *The Poster* are filled with annotated lists on Community Service.

Childhood in American art is the name given to an exhibition at present arranged on the walls of the art rooms of the Public library, Worcester, Mass.

This collection includes about 100 plates, some photographs, others in color, and this mingling of the various kinds brings out the beauty of all.

From the Adrian Hope family by Benjamin West and Family group by Copley, Boy with torn hat by Sully, the artists follow each other to the ever popular and thoroughly appreciated pictures of Jessie Willcox Smith.

Some of the groups especially attractive are those by Benson, the children being his own; by Sargent, one called Kashmir being posed by his niece and a wonderful gold and white Kashmir shawl; Whistler's little Rose and Girl at the piano; W. L. Taylor's Holy Land children besides Story of the tar-baby and Scarlet letter.

American Library Institute

The American Library Institute will hold its annual meeting at Atlantic City, May 1. The following program will be presented:

- (1) President's address: Democracy and Learning. Wm. N. C. Carlton
- (2) Statistics of University libraries J. T. Gerould
- (3) Physical maintenance of library buildings: Statistics Andrew Keogh
- (4) Book poverty and Book purchase... Ernest Cushing Richardson
- (5) Charles Henry Gould Mary Eileen Ahern

Certification of Librarians

The committee on certification of librarians appointed by the Minnesota library association met at St. Paul and transacted some important business. The first draft of a plan for certification of librarians has been made and sub-committees were appointed to ascertain the effect of the proposed plan, its relations and assistance in large libraries; to secure data on the present status of library training in educational institutions, its future prospects and the library staff needed to make such training possible. Thruout the state, outside of the Twin Cities and Duluth, only nine librarians have had full college work and five of these are in the libraries on the range. Minnesota has 40 counties or 47 per cent of the total number with libraries of 5000 volumes or over.

ALICE FARR,
Secretary of committee,

Through an inadvertance in the mailing department of the State library, Oregon, one of the book cards for Darius the Great got into the mail, instead of into the book for which it was intended. It was returned from the post office marked "Not at State house." Evidently somebody there isn't a user of card systems.

Department of School Libraries

The College Student and Library Methods

The library is becoming more and more a vital factor in our economic life of today. Instead of hiding in a dark forbidding type of building and clutching its books tightly in its arms, the arms are wide open. People are invited to come in and use the books—nay more they are urged. The facilities of the libraries are advertised as much as a food product or a transportation service would be. The proudest library is that which can boast the highest real circulation in proportion to its size, and the size of its community. The idea of book service is not confined to the public library either but is spreading to factory, store and office, to rural scene and to distant land.

The college student of today should know about libraries, their methods and their service because he is soon going out into the world in which library service is an increasingly important factor.

Should he go into the world of business, trade and manufacture, he will find that business men are becoming more and more accustomed to the use of libraries, methods of filing, cataloging, etc., and are demanding it in their work. In fact many business concerns already have or are building up business libraries of their own and are luring the well-equipped librarians from college and public libraries with the offer of larger salaries. The bank, office and manufacturing concern as well as commercial chemists, stores and a thousand and one other types of business must have the very latest information available in their line as soon as it is published and must have it well indexed.

Should the college graduate go in for teaching—the spread of the school library has been phenomenal, particularly in the last ten years. It is the center, the laboratory of the school and becoming more and more indispensable

as the days go by. The student must learn and read from something besides his text-books to gain a well-rounded education.

Should he go in for agriculture the country library, traveling library or book-wagon will be sure to reach him sooner or later. To be successful he must have the latest authentic information in his line as well as the teacher and business man.

Should he go to the university for graduate study, all of the larger universities have extensive libraries and part of his task will be the compilation of a bibliography which will necessitate the use of libraries and library tools.

Finally should he go into one of the professions—law, engineering, theology, medicine, architecture, he will of course have to use the library of the professional school he attends. And after he gets out into the world it will be of invaluable assistance to him to know where to get the latest information in his line and to have the use of professional libraries or special departments of the public libraries to supplement his own private collection of books.

Best of all, if he is good material, he may conclude to join the ranks of librarians.

Information, recreation and instruction the library offers its readers and for the great masses of the people who have never been to college it is the great extension university.

If the college graduate is to be leader he must know how to direct others to the main sources of information and help which they seek. The library travels with the soldier and sailor. It goes into hospitals, prisons and other public institutions. It is found in factories, offices, schools, stores and in a thousand and one other places in this world. It must be reckoned with if you would keep up with the times.

WILLARD P. LEWIS.

New Hampshire College.

In an article on "Extensive reading—a factor in developing ability" in *School and Society*, February 8, C. W. Hunt, superintendent of schools, Lock Haven, Pa., gives the results of investigations which show that pupils who read one or more books a week excelled those who read less in both oral and silent reading.

Two teachers were appointed by the superintendent of schools in Oak Park, Ill., to meet with the children's librarian for the purpose of preparing a book-list for each grade from the fourth to the eighth inclusive. At the end of the year, each child is expected to have completed a certain amount of reading. The plan has met with decided success.

The world today, is like a time of thaw. The bitter, blinding winter of war is over. War was a cruel thing; but its frosts were exhilarating and got us all up. Now we're in the thaw, with muddy roads and dripping skies, and our tempers are getting short. It's a 'ard time for there's neither the tonic of winter nor the comfort of summer, but only grey weather over a grey world. But we can't 'ave spring without it, and the time is coming when the sun will shine again, and we will walk in green fields.—*Labor Leader in The Wisdom of Serpents.*

At the first high-school library conference in Kansas called for May 3 at the Public library, Wichita, practical problems arising out of every day library experience will be threshed out. One problem is that of supervised study and the study hall. The two main topics for discussion are: What makes a good high school library, and How to get maximum use.

The conference is under the direction of W. H. Kerr, librarian of the Emporia State normal school.

A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life. A little library, growing larger each year, is an honorable part of a man's history.—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

Book Notes

Mrs Marden by Robert Hichens

In Mrs Marden, Robert Hichens delivers a strong answer to the question: "May the dead be called back?" Mr Hichens most emphatically says: "Spiritualism is all lies, nothing but lies. No one can call back the dead, they are gone where no one can reach them."

The story is of Mrs Marden, a pleasure-loving Englishwoman, an agnostic, whose only son is killed in action. Religion means nothing to her in her grief; she is persuaded to seek solace in Spiritualism. She goes to a seance with "an open mind." Conviction comes to her when she hears her son's voice, but even this comfort is to be denied her, for Peter Orwyn, the medium, is called upon to bear the same sorrow as Mrs Marden. In his grief, shorn of all sham and pretense, he confesses that he has deceived her. No one can call back the dead.

The revival of Spiritualism during and since the war has made "Mrs Marden" a very popular book, as men and women from all creeds and walks in life are eagerly seeking the truth on the subject. As presented by Mr Hichens there is no room for doubt. I. B. M.

The Russian theater

The director of the Little Theater of Indianapolis makes the statement that Oliver Sayler's new book, "The Russian Theater under the Revolution" is the most important contribution to the literature of the theater made within recent years. Mr Sayler was until his recent trip to Russia dramatic critic for the *Indianapolis News*, which fact makes the statement of George Somnes one of interest to the Central West public. Mr Sayler went to Russia during the winter of 1917-1918 with the intention of proving to himself and to the world that the "free and boundless" Russian spirit had not been and could not be trampled upon by four years of the shock of war nor by months of incessant strife and agony within the heart of Russia herself. He has proved his point beyond a doubt, and has given us as well a valuable collection of facts, both historical and critical, dealing with the Russian theater, ballet and opera. Mr Sayler's contribution will be especially appreciated when one considers the difficulty of his task. The Russian may burn himself up with enthusiasm for his work, but once the work is accomplished he is not interested in preserving a history of his achievement.

One is amazed at the courage and enthusiasm with which the Russian artists went through the darkest and most uncertain days of the Bolshevik revolution. The repertory of the theaters in Petrograd during the nights when the Germans were steadily advancing will be a permanent testimonial to the fineness of the Russian character. Invaluable to students of new movements in the theater today will be Mr Saylor's account of the Moscow art theater, of the Kamerny ("a Little Theater which is already a big theater"), of the Great State theater, home of the ballet, and of the artists whose vision has made these theaters possible. The book is truly a noteworthy contribution to the literature of the theater and incidentally to the history of the Russian Revolution.

Books For Human Beings

As a sage librarian said, "All you have to be to enjoy Archibald Marshall, is a human being." Among other books for "human beings" which might "yield to a little loan desk advertising," the Los Angeles public library suggests those of E. V. Lucas, who belongs to Charles Lamb just as Marshall belongs to Anthony Trollope. Even the people who have found in the mellow essays and travel sketches of Mr. Lucas a pilgrimage of pleasure, seem to have no inkling of his stories: London Lavender, an entertainment, Listener's lure, The Abusefrau rampant, The one left or Mr Ingleside—and yet wit goes swinging through them like a paper lantern and they are full of whimsical shadows and whole souled, breathing people. Here is the same Indian summer atmosphere achieved so well by Mr Marshall and the reader's reaction should be a similar wholesome delight.

There is a goodly amount of buried treasure in the books of Rhoda Broughton, an English writer. American librarians do not buy her tales as often as they might, and when they do they permit them to become "wall flowers" for lack of introductions. In England, her stories like Belinda and Red as a Rose are read with genuine pleasure by both critics and "human beings."

Then there is Pierre Mille, the French Kipling. In France, he is known by everybody, but how many Americans

have read his Two Little Parisians, Miracle of Zobedid or Louise and Barnavaux and yet the translations are very good.

Walter Besant, who went on and on with stories like Scheherazade in the Arabian Nights, should help to prolong the popularity and lives of countless librarians. When in doubt one may give any reader a book by Besant and know "The world went very well then." He had also the grace and good sense to give his wares tempting titles like, The inner house, the Golden butterfly and the Ivory gate.

And now we come to the garden of Eden Philipotts, and if we let people but look through the gate they begin climbing over the hedges and though the book reviewers stand and call lustily and whistle like black birds, they never return.

Harry Griswold Dwight who acquired a spurt of fame with his Stamboul lights could stand a little spot light now. In the Pasha's garden, Persian miniatures and Constantinople old and new, are books rich in atmosphere. The short stories of Arthur Cosslett Smith, that prince of craftsmen, deserve wider recognition, and one might, if one tried, awaken a new appetite for the books of James Lane Allen, who was so popular yesterday.

We give them this;
We give them that,
But Fiction Folk
Will not grow fat.

We buy books here;
We buy books there,
But they growl hungry like a bear.

And so old books,
Back to the bout!
You're made of dreams
That don't wear out.

The metaphor seems to change in the last stanza. "But what of it?"—as Carl Sandburg and the others would say. This is an age of change and it is inevitable that some of it should creep into "metaphors."

MONICA SHANNON,
Los Angeles public library.

News From the Field

East

Priscilla Bancroft, Simmons '18, has been appointed librarian of the Deering high school at Portland, Maine.

Marion Lovis, Simmons '09,, has been appointed librarian of the Waltham high school, Waltham, Mass.

Charles A. Flagg, librarian of Public library, Bangor, Me., died at his home in that city, March 28, after a short illness.

Mildred Whittemore, Simmons '15, has just accepted a position with the Arthur D. Little Company of Cambridge, Mass.

Aldina A. L. Galarneau, Simmons '12, has been made librarian of the Fiske Rubber Company, Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts.

Beatrice Lane, Simmons '19, has just accepted a position as assistant at the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 264 Boylston street, Boston, Mass.

Beatrice Lane, Simmons '19, has just been made librarian of the information service of the New England division of the Red Cross, with headquarters in Boston, Mass.

Jessamine M. Smith, N. Y. S., '10-11, resigned her position with the Ferguson library, Stanford, Conn., to become first assistant in the Public library at Middletown, Conn.

The annual report of the Public library of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, shows a circulation of 176,406 v. for the year; number of volumes on the shelf, 41,042; borrowers, 12,092. The shortage in the book-fund has operated against greater activity.

Helen M. Benjamin, Public library, Easthampton, Massachusetts, resigned her position to take effect May 1. She was formerly in the City library at Springfield and later in the Public library at Waltham. She expects to be married some time in June.

Clarence E. Sherman of Lynn, has been appointed agent of the Massachusetts library commission to succeed John A. Lowe. Mr Sherman studied at the New York State library school, '11-12, was assistant librarian at Amherst, '12-17, and has been librarian at the Lynn public library since 1917.

The forty-second annual report of the Public library of Hudson, Massachusetts, records a circulation of 40,502v., an appropriation of \$3,146, of which \$1,484 was spent for salaries, for books, \$724. Number of books added to the library, 754, number of registered borrowers 3,809. Population, 6,758; number of days open, 305.

The Public library commission of New Hampshire has submitted a general form for library service in that state, which they believe will be more uniform and will, therefore, be a more satisfactory ground for comparison between libraries of the same character. They hope thereby to obtain a basis upon which effective suggestions and advice may be given for improving the service of libraries.

The report of the Beebe town library, Wakefield, Massachusetts, records the largest circulation in its history, 82,558. The appropriation for the library was \$4,535, of which \$2,259 was paid for salaries and \$1,381 for books and binding. This library returned to the town \$289, leaving a balance in its treasury of 1 cent. Number of books on the shelves, 19,495; number of card holders, 5,105; population, 12,781.

The thirty-fourth annual report of Bancroft memorial library, Hopedale, Massachusetts, records a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Frances E. Colburn of \$10,000. An afternoon entertainment was given to the families of Italian birth in the community, Princess Boncompagni being the guest of honor. Miss Bancroft and the librarian told the advantages which the library wished to furnish the visitors and Miss Rowell, the district nurse, told of her work. Princess Boncompagni, after her own word of greeting, explained in Italian what had been

said by the previous speakers and urged them to take advantage of the library. A number of Italian women asked if they could come to the library for instruction in English. A class was started for them. The Princess Boncompagni presented the library with a carefully chosen collection of 156 books in Italian.

The annual report of the Public library, Providence, Rhode Island, records 218,281v. on the shelf. Number of borrowers' cards issued during the year, 9569; number of cards in use, 35,403. Special card to a firm or institution for use by those who are connected with it has been put into operation. Total circulation, 437,649v. A systematic use of parcel post in delivery of books to readers has proved a welcome opportunity in a number of instances. A deposit of \$1.00 at the library covers the expense. There was a gain of 35 per cent in the circulation of the children's department as compared to the previous year. Seventy-six visits were made by classes with their teachers to the library. The special libraries department contains 42,053v., from which there was a circulation of 28,090v. Number of books missing in two years, 1,014.

Twenty meetings were held in the library building and 60 exhibits; 52 subjects were treated in weekly notes in the newspapers. Receipts for the year, \$142,089; total expenditure, \$140,056. Of this \$37,270 was spent for books, periodicals and bindings; \$68,720 for salaries of library service; \$13,798 for janitor service.

Central Atlantic

Anna Howard, N. Y. S., '18, has been appointed assistant in the Department of Agriculture library, Washington, D. C.

Esther C. Turk, N. Y. P. L., '18-19, has been appointed an assistant in the cataloging department of the United Engineering Societies library, New York City.

Mrs. Pauline Rand, formerly assistant in the Public library of Bangor Me., has become cataloger in the library of the State department, Washington, D. C.

Phyllis Martin, Western Reserve, '10, formerly with the New York public library, is now on the staff of the catalog department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Marguerite Burnett, Pratt '13, has resigned as assistant at the National City financial library and has been made librarian of the library of the Federal Reserve bank, New York City.

Katherine Tappert, Pratt '10, assistant librarian of the Washington County free library, Hagerstown, Maryland, has accepted a position in the information department of the New York *Evening Post*.

Miss Ola M. Wyeth who has been assistant to Miss Webster in the A. L. A. War Service hospital department, sailed on April 17, for A. L. A. work in France and Germany.

Margaret M. Welch, Simmons '16, has been transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the library of the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington, D. C.

Alice P. Bixby, Illinois '00, who has been with the General Staff college, Washington, has become a member of the staff of the Technology department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Ernestine Rose who has been assistant at the A. L. A. library in Coblenz, sailed on the *Patria* from Marseilles, March 25, scheduled to arrive in New York, April 11.

Dagmar Holmes, N. Y. P. L., '12-13 formerly an assistant in the Zone Finance, U. S. War department, Washington, D. C., has been appointed an assistant in the Merchant Marine department of the A. L. A.

Edith I. Wright, Pratt '14, has resigned from the reference cataloging division of the New York public library to accept the position of cataloger in the library of the Interchurch World Movement.

Donald K. Campbell, N. Y. P. L., '15-17, has resigned his position in the library of the Association of the Bar, New

York City, to become an assistant in the Merchant Marine department of the A. L. A.

Minnie Sloat, N. Y. P. L., '17-18, has given up her position with the U. S. Ordinance department of the Bridgeport district to take charge of the Research department of the National Retail Drygoods Association, New York City.

Marjorie H. Holmes, N. Y. P. L., '13-14, '17-18, has resigned her position as an assistant in the reference cataloging division of the New York public library to become an assistant in the record section of the Community Motion Picture bureau, New York City.

The annual report of the Public library of New Castle, Pennsylvania, records a circulation of 57,870v., an increase of nearly 25 per cent; registered borrowers, 7,367. A system of class-room loans for the school has been inaugurated. A very successful movement was the observation of children's book-week. Total receipts, \$7,242; expenditures, \$7,235—salaries, \$3,387; books, \$1,698.

The annual report of the Friends free library of Germantown, Philadelphia, records an overwhelming increase in circulation since the war. Jean N. Smith, librarian, was four months in A. L. A. service at Camp Meade. A gift of old papers recording sales of land under the Proprietary government was made to the library. Number of books on the shelves, 32,454; number of books circulated, 21,058; number of visitors to the library, 31,124.

The annual report of the Public library of Elizabeth, New Jersey, records the most active year in its history. The circulation is 10 times as great as it was 10 years ago. The reference work extends into the business, educational and social life of the city and a very close co-operation with the schools has been developed. Circulation for home use was 239,135v.; number of books on shelves, 68,946; active readers' cards, 13,367. The loan print collection contains 140,191 items, from which 10,588 pictures were lent

last year. Receipts, \$36,133; expenditures, \$35,983.

The city of Rochester, New York, recently held a "Homelands exhibit," in which the citizens of foreign birth were invited to make exhibition of material brought from or produced in their native land. The Public library of Rochester took occasion to issue a list of books relating to the countries represented. In addition there were lists on Our own country, Guides to citizenship, Helps in learning English and definite information about the location and opportunities of the Rochester public library and its branches.

The annual report of the New York public library shows the circulation to be 9,892,648, an increase of 3 per cent over the previous year; 892,298 readers consulted 2,244,452 books, no account being kept of the use of books on open shelves. This was an increase of 17 per cent in readers and 9 per cent in the number of volumes consulted. The number of readers has increased 123 per cent since 1912, the first year of operation in the new building. The use of the library shows that people are reading in nearly the same proportions the same kinds of books they read in 1914. The main reading room books classed as "literature" were most in demand, and works on economics came second.

Rearrangement of science and technology in one department has proved satisfactory. The reference department received 35,174v. as gifts during the year—79,697 pamphlets, 938 maps and 4,517 prints. The reference department contains 1,437,178 pieces, the circulation department, 1,177,896v; the total number of books and pamphlets, 2,615,074.

Number of employees, 1,218, of whom 515 are in the reference department, 11 in the municipal reference library, and 691 in the circulation department. Various economies were made necessary in the circulation department on account of the reduction of the 1919 city appropriation for branch library service. The staffs were reduced, as were the book funds, also open hours for reading rooms;

branches were closed mornings; and other curtailments of expenditures and readers privileges were made. The reduction in the number of the staff and the difficulty of filling vacancies have made the strain of conducting the branch library service very severe.

Central

Miss Irma Dunham has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Robinson, Ill., to succeed Elizabeth L. McHatton resigned.

Ruth D. McCollough, N. Y. S., '15, has resigned as librarian of the Public library of Appleton, Wis., to become head cataloger of the Public library of Evansville, Ind.

Harriet C. Long, B. L. S., N. Y. S., '10, recently returned from A. L. A. war service overseas, has joined the staff of the Wisconsin library commission for three months.

The annual report of the Public library of Galesburg, Illinois, shows the following statistics: circulation for home use, 97,217v., a gain of 23 per cent; total recorded use of books, 148,873, a gain of 31 per cent.

Edith Lawrence, Western Reserve, '09, formerly in the University of Chicago library, is now first assistant in the catalog department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh. This position was made vacant thru the resignation of Amy Moon, who after many years of valuable service in Pittsburgh, has accepted the position of chief cataloger in the St. Paul library.

The annual report of the Public library of Dayton, Ohio, records a circulation of 782,768v. A total of 109,920 questions were answered. The cost of service per volume of use, 9.2 cents, cost per annum, (population, 150,000), 34.5 cents. Number of borrowers, 37,660; number of volumes on the shelves, 114,955. Per cent of non-fiction issued to adults, 39.6; non-fiction issued to children, 51.2. Total receipts of the library, \$106,375, expenditures, \$103,682. Three urgent needs are mentioned—new main building,

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Boston, Mass.

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July 26-Aug. 13. Library Work with Children, by Miss Alice Hazeltine or Book Service, by Miss Donnelly

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increased book fund, adequate library staff.

The annual report of the Public library of Evanston, Illinois, is a record of steady growth. Number of volumes on the shelf, 65,926; borrowers registered, 13,472, circulation, 174,745v., an increase of more than 20,000. In addition to volumes circulated, there was circulated from the Coe music selection, pianola rolls, 652; sheet music, 399; pictures for circulation, 2,562. Appropriated from the city, \$21,757; population, 38,000. Total number of staff, 11, pages 3. A recent increase in the salary list shows that 71.4 per cent of the tax income is spent for employees, 64.3 per cent being for library service, exclusive of janitors. The total income of the library maintenance is \$30,903, of which \$21,757 is supplied by taxation.

South

A Public library has been opened at Elsberry, Missouri, where Millie M. Lewis has been appointed librarian.

Blanche L. Hawks, N. Y. S., '06-08, has gone to the Kansas City public library as assistant cataloger.

Mrs. Julius W. Johnston of Vicksburg, Mississippi, gave \$5,000 towards the establishment of a library in Georgetown in that state.

The fifteenth annual report of the Public library of Jacksonville, Florida, records a circulation of 245,981v.; 52,866v. on the shelves. Active users, 13,134, population, 120,000, receipts, \$20,608.

The legislature of Kentucky passed two bills which have become laws, touching library service for that state. One bill gives authority for providing free county libraries and the other for free city libraries.

The American Library Association was represented by Louis R. Wilson, librarian of the University of North Carolina, by appointment of President Hadley, at the inauguration of Harry Woodburn Chase as president of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 28.

The annual report of the Public library of Chattanooga, Tennessee, records a circulation of 94,461v., through the city, and 29,539v. through the county branches, making a total of 124,000v.; registration, 22,340; population of the city, 107,858; number of volumes on the shelves, 42,520.

The report of the Public library of Little Rock, Arkansas, shows an increase of 18,954v. in the circulation for the past year; 32,841v. on the shelves. Special increase has been made in the French books and in books on business of various trades and technical subjects. The appropriation for the year was \$10,234.

The remains of the library building at Temple, Texas, which was partially destroyed by fire nearly two years ago, were offered for sale. The building was located in the city park. The Chamber of Commerce has persistently sought a removal of the debris from the site. Bids were asked for, but the only bidder was the Chamber of Commerce to whom the ruins were sold for \$7.50.

The North Carolina library commission has been preparing statistics relating to libraries in that state for the year 1919. Items for the public libraries in the six leading cities of the state according to newspaper reports, are as follows:

	Vols.	Borrowers	Circulation
Durham	7,795	8,019	27,575
Win.-Salem	10,544	5,210	37,602
Greensboro	17,133	10,000	46,093
Raleigh	16,235	4,606	47,862
Charlotte	10,396	8,343	57,400
Asheville	9,284	2,982	69,979

An interesting occasion was the dedication of the education building of the University of Texas, and in connection therewith, the quarters set aside for the Wrenn library. This library was originally owned by John H. Wrenn, of Chicago, who offered it for sale on condition that it be kept intact. Major George W. Littlefield of Texas on being assured of its great value, paid a quarter of a million dollars for it and also donated sufficient funds to provide a suitable room



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By LOUIS COUPERUS, author of "Small Souls," etc.

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NEW YORK

in the education department of the university. The room was specially designed, heavily beamed ceiling carved with intricate and significant designs to make the surroundings suitable for the collection.

The dedicatory ceremonies were most interesting. The speakers were: President R. E. Vinson, Dr. Frederick Eby, dean of the department of education, Dr. Elwood P. Cubberley of Leland Stanford university and other distinguished educators.

West

Mrs Ella R. Vaughan has been appointed librarian of the Public library, Concordia, Kansas.

Pacific Coast

Miss Mary Frances Isom, for 18 years librarian of the Portland public library, died at her home, 815 Overton street, Portland, Ore., Thursday, April 15.

Helen E. Vogleson has been appointed assistant librarian to Miss Celia Gleason, in the Los Angeles county free library. She succeeds Miss Mary L. Jones, who has retired from library work.

Elizabeth Thurston, Simmons '13, recently returned from A. L. A. War Service in France, has been made librarian of the Queen Anne branch library, Seattle.

Agnes Hansen, Pratt '14, who has been the assistant in charge of the work with foreigners in the Public library, Seattle, has been made head of the foreign division and will now devote all of her time to that work.

Canada

W. J. Healy for some time a leading journalist in Canada has been appointed provincial librarian of Manitoba. New parliamentary buildings at Winnipeg have provisions for the development of a fine library. Mr Healey has been chosen because of his wide literary knowledge and ability to develop the work.

The annual report of the Public library of Windsor, Ontario, records a circulation of 95,510v. for the year 1919, the

first year after the close of the war. This circulation was an increase of 13,247 over the previous year. The children's room was open and had a circulation in one month of 3,000v. There is fine co-operation between the schools and the libraries. Borrowers cards, 3,234; number of volumes on the shelves, 28,280. There has been a very noticeable increase in the number of returned soldiers who have become borrowers at the library. Income, \$10,690, expenditures, \$10,681, of which \$5,287 was for salaries, 1,742 for books.

Foreign

A note from Mr Henry O. Severance, who is now in the A. L. A. headquarters at Paris, in speaking of a recent visit which he made to Coblenz, says:

I was much pleased with Coblenz, and especially the cordial American spirit shown by all our people. There is really more social life for the A. L. A. personnel there than there is here in Paris. I made the trip over the Silesian area going as far north as Andernach and Sinzig, and west to Mayen. There were doughboys everywhere. I was impressed with the magnitude of the work we are still carrying on with the Army of Occupation. It covers miles of territory. We have 75 stations in Coblenz and vicinity, and 90 stations outside.

The American Library Association has been informed of a French librarian who wishes to secure a library position in this country. He is an archivist and paleographer, having received his degree at the 'Ecole Nationale des Chartes, at Paris. He was librarian in a town of about 4500 for three years and in 1910 became record keeper of the department in Paris, which position he holds at this time. He speaks excellent English and is familiar with German. Anyone wishing to correspond with him may secure his name and address from A. L. A. Headquarters.

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6 North Michigan Ave. Mail comes to PUBLIC LIBRARIES with the address on it that was correct 15 years ago, 10 years ago, but which is no longer used. This makes a delay in important matters sometimes. Keep the mailing list up-to-date.